



Committee:

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Newsletter 46

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Majel Barrett, Jonathan del Arco, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Michael Dorn, Alexander Siddig, Robert Justman, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okuda, Ernie Oer, Nichelle Nichols, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi. Welcome to another newsletter.

First we would like to congratulate Nana Visitor and Sid who are expecting a baby.

Now the bad news! We have decided to close IDIC in October with newsletter 48. Various things have influenced our decision, but the main reason is that after 8 years we are getting stale and putting out the newsletter is becoming a chore rather than a pleasure.

Many things have happened this last year both personal and with the club. Sheila lost her mother and has many other things she now wants to do. Janet lost Shona and now has 2 year-old Carrie who makes it plain that she wants to be out and about, not stuck in while Janet spends all her time on the computer. It is quite difficult working with a Lurcher draped across your knee with her head on your arm or on the keyboard.

Within the club, some members have started to show dissatisfaction with the newsletter. This is obvious, to judge from members' comments, both to us and in the postbag. Renewals have dropped off. Some members

have made suggestions as to how we could improve the newsletter but unfortunately their suggestions are so diverse as to be contradictory - eg: More pictures, no pictures; cut postbag, keep it the same, increase it; don't edit letters, edit out all negative comments; stick to discussing Star Trek, broaden the discussion to include other subjects; etc. We could go on. We don't know about you, but we have found the postbag in this newsletter rather negative and depressing. Some members just seem to be writing in circles.

Not only have renewals dropped drastically but so have enquiries and new members. This indicates to us that there is less need for a club like IDIC these days as there are so many other avenues open to fans. Fandom has become so diverse that it is difficult for a club to give adequate coverage of all ST series.

We do feel sorry for those members who enjoy the postbag, as we don't know of another club which prints as many letters as we do. Maybe one of you out there would like to start up a letterzine. If you do we will

be happy to advertise you. In fact, we would like members to feel free to use the final two newsletters to recommend any other clubs that you are in to fellow members. Also if you want to keep in touch with other members why not print your address with your letters in the postbag?

Even though we are giving up the club, we are not dropping out of fandom. We plan to continue the IDIC Guide Dog Fund as we have about £800 at the moment and we still have a lot of second-hand stuff to sell. We will also carry on collecting stamps. It would be nice if we could reach the £2000 we need for another dog. We will also be carrying on with Scotpress as long as putting out zines remains viable.

Now to finances: Unfortunately it is not possible for us to make an immediate refund to everyone whose subscription extends beyond newsletter 48. We doubt that any amateur club could do so; most tend to work newsletter to newsletter. We must admit that we got caught when the bottom dropped out of the zine market and we have a lot of unsold IDIC zines and Scotpress ones. If we had gone over to A5 earlier it would have helped (we had considered it); but zines had always been A4-sized and we stuck with 'tradition' a little too long. Suddenly people weren't willing to pay £4 for a zine and we were forced to reduce the price to £2.50. This meant selling them at a loss, but we needed to try and recoup some of the outlay. A5 zines do still just cover printing costs so we've been able to put out a final IDIC zine.

We also got caught with the last two newsletters; we've never printed too many extra, but we went from often running out to suddenly having 35 left. We were a bit more careful with the badges. When we were asked for them we just got 100 made, which doesn't seem a lot as there were 1,000 members at the time, but we still have over 50 left.

We have worked out that we can just about get the next three newsletters out with the money we have and that we need to find an extra £1000 to repay everyone. We hope to raise some of this in club draws and we are

donating some items to the club for this. We would also be very grateful to any members who are willing to donate their refund to club funds on the understanding that if there is any money left when we close the club accounts it will go into the IDIC Guide Dog Fund. It would also help if instead of taking their refund in cash members use it to buy zines for themselves or their friends - anyone doing this will get a 50p discount on older zines, per zine - or if they use it for the club draws.

Everyone who is due a refund will find a form in the envelope with this newsletter telling them how much they are due. Please return this form to Janet as soon as possible as we need to know how you want your refund to help us with financing the club's closure. There is a problem with refunding money to our foreign members unless they paid by credit card but we will work something out. We assure you that everyone requesting a refund will receive it and we will make up any shortfall in club funds ourselves.

If your membership expires with this newsletter you will find a form inviting you to renew for £3 UK to receive the last two newsletters. If you expire with the next one you will receive a form with it and you can get the final newsletter for £1.50 UK.

If you would like to make a donation to club funds please send money rather than items as we will only be having one more draw. On the other hand we are always grateful to receive things for the IDIC Guide Dog Fund.

Before anyone asks, we did consider finding someone to pass the club on to, but to be honest we don't know of anyone who would be willing to take on the workload and we really would prefer to close the club rather than pass it into new hands and lose control of its future.

BADGES

We still have button badges of the logo available for 50p inclusive; you can pay in stamps if you want. Foreign members can send 2 IRCs per badge. Please send your order to Janet with an address label.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is July 3rd.

PLEASE put your **full name** on **all** submissions (**including individual disc files**) - if you don't and they get separated from your letter then we can't print them.

Email - send these to Janet and she will try to confirm receipt within 2 weeks.

(Email - janet.quarton@almac.co.uk)

Computer disc - send to Janet. ASCII text files on MS-DOS, Atari ST, Acorn or Amstrad PCW - SAE to Janet for details. Please indicate *italics* by enclosing the text in < > and **bold** by enclosing it in [] (square brackets).

By letter or fax - send anything to be typed up for the newsletter to Sheila. Send news & cuttings to Janet.

Cartoons - We now have more than we can use. Thanks to those who have sent them in.

Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH.

Our thanks to Barbara Ellams, George Haggarty, Valerie Herd, Mary von Heide, Sara Jackson, Fiona McDonald, Ben McClelland, Margaret Richardson, Gloria Rigg, Stephen Shaw, Alan Stephen, Anthony Stewart, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

The list of secondhand books and zines for the guide dog appeal has been recently updated and there are some new items on it - SAE to Sheila for a list.

USED STAMPS

Sheila recently took 14 kilos of stamps to Forfar, and since then we received a load from Warp II in Cardiff. (Thanks to George Haggarty for bringing them up.)

Any American/Canadian members who would like to contribute used stamps can send them to Bill Hupe, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554, USA and he will forward them to us along with a list of your names so that we can acknowledge them.

We would like to thank Dianne Abbott, Pam Baddeley, Annette Bannasch, Neil Barrett, Elizabeth Barrie, Annette Bohm, Silvia Boy, D Burch, Helen Cakebread, Hallie Chase, Alistair Craig, Charlotte Davis, Dana Dietrich, Margie Ferguson, Olga Fernandez del Val, Fiona Fletcher, Anne-Marie Flowers, Maria Frenzel, Vered Gilad, Glasgow Libraries, Ena Glogowska, Elena S Guasch, Theresa Hawkins, Martin Helsdon, Valerie Herd, Catherine Hill, Glynn Holland, David Houston, Bill Hupe, Christine Jones, Anke Kaiser, Kimba, Eva Korb, Greg Lamb & Standard Life, Lloyd Lewis, Longforgan Kennels, Maureen Norton & Thamesway Bus Company, Sylvia Paddock, Barbara Pallor, Claudia Peill, Carsten Pohl, Pat Price, Michael & Christa Richert, Darren Riley, Jason Rorbach, Stephen Rothwell, Baerbel Schmidt, Margaret Sibbald, Gumdel Slavik, Jean Sloan, Ingrid Smith, Helen Spink, Martin Stahl, Marcia Stanislawski, Jay Stevensen, Margot Sykes, Helen Thompson, Rachel Timms, Jenny Turner, Linda Ware, Karin Wendt, Allison White, Edward Woo, Deborah Wood, James Woodman, Lindsay Wright, Barblin Zimmermann and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for donations of money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving 1/4" of envelope around the stamp.

Sheila now has an email address:

sheilac@post.almac.co.uk

We plan to post the next newsletter out around 24th July, printer's holidays permitting. Don't worry if it is a week late.

We hope to see some of you at Contagion in July - it should be a good convention.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 12/5/96

CLUB DRAW IN AID OF CLUB FUNDS

We are offering CIC videos - DS9 Season 1 (10 tapes) and DS9 Season 2 (13 tapes). Some tapes have been played once, most have never been played. We enclose two tickets, price £1.50 each. Each season will be drawn separately so please put your name and address or membership number on the ticket plus which season draw you want it entered in - ie season 1 or season 2. If you want extra entries just send the money and we will make the tickets out for you.

Send the tickets and money to Janet or Sheila by July 1st, 1996. The winners will be given in the next newsletter.

We reserve the right to cancel this draw if we do not receive at least £75 for each set of tapes. In this case the money you have paid for your tickets will be refunded with the next newsletter.

In the next newsletter we will be having a draw for the Franklin Mint pewter Enterprise (original series) worth £195.



compiled by Janet Quarton

TV & SATELLITE

Star Trek continues on BBC2 with TNG and DS9, although Classic seems to have disappeared.. On Sky One there is Classic Trek and TNG. Voyager finished with Alliances on Sunday May 5th. Way of the Warrior, the start of DS9's 4th season, was shown on May 12th

BBC - screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
TNG		
7th Season		
264	The Pegasus	27/03/96
265	Homeward	03/04/96
266	Sub Rosa	10/04/96
267	Lower Decks	17/04/96
268	Thine Own Self	24/04/96
269	Masks	01/05/96
270	Eye of the Beholder	08/05/96
271	Genesis	15/05/96

DS9 (* Scotland one day later)

2nd Season		
428	Necessary Evil	29/03/96 *
429	Second Sights	04/04/96
430	Sanctuary	11/04/96
431	Rivals	18/04/96
432	The Alternative	25/04/96
433	Armageddon Game	02/05/96
434	Whispers	09/05/96
435	Paradise	16/05/96

TOS

1st Season		
23	A Taste of Armageddon	24/03/96
25	This Side of Paradise	30/03/96
26	Devil in the Dark	07/04/96
27	Errand of Mercy	14/04/96
20	The Alternative Factor	21/04/96

STAR TREK VOYAGER

Star Trek: Voyager.
Season 1 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Eps Date UPN # Prod Title

Eps	Date	UPN #	Prod	Title
37	08/04/96	STV222	138	Innocence
38	29/04/96	STV223	139	The Thaw
39	06/05/96	STV224	140	Symbiogenesis
40	13/05/96	STV225	141	Resolutions
41	20/05/96	STV226	142	Basics Part I
				[season finale]

SPOILERS - Press Releases

222 Innocence - Directed by James Conway; story by Anthony Williams, teleplay by Lisa Klink. Guest starring Marnie McPhail as Alicia, Tiffany Taubman as Tressa, Sarah Rayne as Elani, Tahj D. Mowry.

Tuvok and Benner's shuttle crash lands on a sacred haven for the Drayan, an alien race which has shunned outside contact for decades. While Bennet lies dying from his injuries, three frightened Drayan children venture out from hiding. The young ones tell Tuvok that they have been abandoned by their people to die on the planet, and beg his help in saving them from imminent arrival of the "morrok" - the messenger of death.

While Tuvok tries to calm the tiny trio, he cannot comprehend why a society would forsake its children. Then, during the night, two of the youngsters mysteriously disappear. Meanwhile, Janeway makes contact with the Drayan's First Prelate, Alicia, and in the course of trying to rescue Tuvok and the remaining child, there is an amazing revelation about this mysterious race.

223 The Thaw - Directed by Marvin Rush; story by Richard Gadas and Michael Piller; teleplay by Joe Menosky. Special guest star is Michael McKean as the Clown. Guest starring are Thomas Kopache as Viorsa, Carel Struycken as Spectre, Patty Maloney as

the Little Woman, Tony Carlin as the Physician and Shannon O'Hurley as the Programmer.

Voyager activates an automated messages from members of the Kohl settlement who, years earlier, survived an environmental catastrophe by submitting themselves into artificial hibernation. When the crew transports the Kohl's hibernation pods on board, they find humanoids in deep stasis with suppressed metabolic activity - but with active minds and complex sensory systems controlled by a computer - and that is where the nightmare begins.

In an effort to help the Kohl people, Torres and Kim equip two pods with Starfleet technology and submit themselves into stasis. With their mental and physical activities closely monitored, they enter the environment created by the computer attached to the Kohl pods. Once there, Torres and Kim find that the humanoid's dreadful fears about recovery and survival have caused their computer program to manifest a devious, omnipotent clown - the idealization of their fear - and a cast of other nightmarish characters. Then, the clown holds Torres and Kim hostage while making increasingly unreasonable demands of Janeway.

224 Symbiogenesis - Directed by Cliff Bole; story by Andrew Price and Mark Gaberman; teleplay by Kenneth Biller. Guest starring Tom Wright as Tuvix, Simon Billig as Hogan and Bahni Turpin as Swinn.

A bizarre occurrence causes Neelix and Tuvok, who are attempting to transport back to Voyager from an away mission, to arrive aboard ship as one. The crew is astonished when a strange but oddly familiar alien humanoid with dark speckled skin and pointy ears - which is neither Tuvok or Neelix - appears. The Doctor's bio-scanner shows that the Neelix and Tuvok's patterns have merged, causing the pair to become one entity - Tuvix - a humor-filled, logic defying fusion of the two crewmen.

While Tuvix assimilates and starts to become a valued member of the team, Kes struggles with the fact Neelix may not be part of her life anymore. Meanwhile, The Doctor devises a method to restore Tuvok and Neelix, except for one variable - Tuvix doesn't want to die. When The Doctor, who is

programmed to follow certain ethical guidelines, cannot perform the separation. Janeway is left with a monumental decision.

225 Resolutions - Directed by Alex Singer; written by Jeff Taylo. Guest starring Susan Diol as Dr. Denara Pel, Simon Billig as Hogan and Bahni Turpin as Swinn.

When Janeway and Chakotay contact a deadly virus from an insect bite, the Doctor cannot find a cure. Unable to perform her duties, Janeway is forced to turn over permanent command of the ship to Tuvok and retreat, with Chakotay, to a small planet which shields the effects of the fatal disease.

As Voyager moves out of her communication range, Captain Janeway leaves Tuvok with strict orders not to contact the Vidians for help even though they may have more sophisticated medical technology to handle the crisis. While the ship's crew is struck with the harsh reality of abandoning their leader and first officer forever, the former Captain and Commander, alone on a strange planet, awkwardly drop protocol and begin to explore another side of their relationship.

226 Basics, Part I - Directed by Rick Kolbe; written by Michael Piller. Special guest star Brad Dourif as Suder. Guest starring Anthony De Longis as Culluh, John Gegunhuber as Teirna, Martha Hackett as Seska and Henry Darrow as Kolopak.

In an emergency message to Chakotay, Seska discloses that their newborn son has been banished by Culluh to a servant colony. Chakotay feels conflicted about rescuing the baby because he was manipulated into fatherhood by Seska. When the crew detects a distress signal from a Kazon shuttle, they transport aboard the critically injured Teirna, a former aide to Seska, who delivers the news that Culluh has killed Seska. So with Teirna restricted to secured quarters, Voyager heads on a rescue mission through the Kazon-Nistrim territory where Kazon raiders viciously attack the ship. Before long, the fierce battle is over and the Voyager crew has lost - outwitted by their most bitter foe. Surrounded and defenseless, Captain Janeway must give up the ship to the Kazon.

The crew must accept that they've been tricked by Culluh who relishes the help of

Voyager. At his side is an alive and well Seska who taunts Chakotay with their son. Then, the Kazon abandon the 148 members Voyager crew on the surface of Hanon Four, a primitive, ferocious planet. Stripped of their technology, they must use the most basic skills to survive. While they watch helplessly, their enemy lifts off the surface with their ship but, unbeknownst to the Kazon, two Starfleet crew members are stowed away on board.

Part II," the conclusion of the storyline, will launch the third season of Star Trek Voyager.

3rd season

146 Basics, Part II - The crew must regain control of the ship from the Kazons. Martha Hackett as Seska.

143 Sacred Ground - A Chakotay episode. Harry Groener [Tam Elbrum in TNG's "Tin Man"] as the Magistrate. Becky Ann Baker as the Guide. Directed by Robert Duncan McNeill (Tom Paris).

144 False Profits - The two Ferengi from the TNG episode "The Price", who disappeared into the Barzan wormhole, are discovered. Dan Shor as Dr. Arridor. Leslie Jordan as Kol. Rob LaBelle [the Talaxian prisoner from "Faces"] as Kafar. Michael Ensign [Krola from TNG's "First Contact" and Ambassador Loja from DS9's "The Forsaken"] as Bard. Alan Altschuld [Pomet from TNG's "Starship Mine" and Yranac from "The Gambit, Part I"] as Sandal. Teleplay by Joe Menosky and Kenneth Biller. Story by George A. Brozak. Directed by Cliff Bole.

145 Flashback - Tuvok goes back in time to when he was serving under Capt. Sulu on the Excelsior. Timed to air during/near the 30th Anniversary of the first episode of TOS (The Original Series).

George Takei revealed that Janeway & Tuvok travel back in time and meet the Excelsior. The ship's bridge has supposedly been perfectly recreated, the episode also features Grace Lee Whitney as Janice Rand and the Klingon "Kang" (Michael Ansara).

• Ethan Phillips confirmed that they have

shot a sequel to 'The Price', where Voyager encounters the 2 Ferengi lost in the Delta quadrant. Ethan also announced that he is playing one of the Ferengi in this episode.

STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.
Season 3 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List:-

Date	Prod Num	Title
06/04/96	90	490 Rules of Engagement
13/04/96	91	491 Hard Times
20/04/96	92	492 Shattered Mirror
27/04/96	93	493 Muse
04/05/96	94	494 For the Cause
11/05/96	95	496 To The Death
18/05/96	96	495 The Quickening
08/06/96	97	497 Body Parts
17/06/96	98	498 Broken Link

(Season Finale)

EPISODE SPOILERS

490 Rules of Engagement - Directed by LeVar Burton; Story by Bradley Thompson & David Weddle; Teleplay by Ronald D. Moore. Guest stars: Ron Canada as Ch'Pok, Deborah Strang as T'Lara.

The Klingon Empire accuses Worf of wantonly destroying a Klingon ship during a battle.

491 Hard Time - Directed by Alexander Sings; *Story by Daniel Keys Moran & Lynn Barker. Guest stars: Rosalind Chao as Keiko, Margot Rose as Rinn, Hana Hatae as Molly, F.J. Rio as Muniz and Craig Wasson as Ee'char.

After an alien race implants false memories of a twenty-year prison sentence into O'Brien's brain, he has trouble readjusting to station life.

492 Shattered Mirror - Directed by James L. Conway; Written by Ira Steven Behr & Hans Beimler. Guest stars: Felicia Bell as Jennifer Sisko, Aron Eisenberg as Nog, Carlos Carrasco as Klingon Officer. Special guest star Andrew Robinson as Garak.

Sisko follows his son into a war-torn alternate universe after Jake is lured there by the living counterpart of his late mother.

493 The Muse - Directed by David Livingston; Story by Rene Echevarria & Majel Barrett Roddenberry, Teleplay by Rene Echevarria. Guest stars: Majel Barrett as Lwaxana Troi, Michael Ansara as Jeyal. Special guest star Meg Foster as Onaya.

While Odo provides shelter for a pregnant Lwaxana Troi, Jake Sisko falls under the spell of a mysterious woman.

494 For the Cause - Directed by James L. Conway; Story by Mark Gehred-O'Connell; Teleplay by Ronald D. Moore. Guest stars: Penny Johnson as Kasidy Yates, Kenneth Marshall as Eddington, Tracy Middendorf as Ziyal, John Prosky as Brathaw, Steven Vincent Leigh as Lt. Reese. Special guest star Andrew Robinson as Garak.

Sisko is shocked to learn that his girlfriend, Kasidy Yates, may be a Maquis smuggler.

496 To the Death - Directed by LeVar Burton, Written by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe. Guest stars: Brian Thompson as Toman'torax, Scott Haven as Virak'kara. Special guest star Clarence Williams as Omet'iklan.

Attempting to stop a group of Jem'Hadar renegades from gaining power, Sisko and the Defiant crew must join forces with deadly Jem'Hadar soldiers.

495 The Quickening - Directed by Rene Auberjonois; Written by Naren Shankar. Guest stars: Ellen Wheeler as Ekorra, Dylan Haggerty as Epran. Special guest star Michael Sarrazini as Trevean.

Bashir tries to save a Gamma Quadrant society afflicted with an incurable, terminal disease by the Jem'Hadar.

497 Body Parts - Nog returns when Quark thinks he's dying. Max Grodenchik as Rom.

Aron Eisenberg as Cadet Nog. Written by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe.

498 Broken Link (Season Finale) - Odo re-encounters the Founders. Teleplay by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe. Story by George A. Brozak. Directed by Les Landau.

For his crime of killing another Changeling, the Founders have sentenced Odo to "dissolution", meaning he will be absorbed back into the Great Link and no longer allowed to manifest as a separate, unique entity. Their laws prevent them from directly forcing him to accept this sentence, however, so they coerce him subtly by manipulating events to cost him his position, his friends, and his status in society.

STAR TREK 8

- The new title for the next Trek movie is: **STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT**. The MPAA cleared the title on Wednesday May 1st. The one protest lodged against it had been settled. So far most work has been on location, with the action slated to move back to the lot by May 1...Those on set report director Jonathan "Riker" Frakes is like a "kid in a candy store" and has gone to great lengths to get back a lot of the TNG on-screen family, even down to extras ... and a few neat cameos of different stripes. Trek series costume designer Bob Blackman hinted that he would be designing some new kind of Starfleet uniform for the film, but shied away from more details. Deborah Everton is designing the bulk of the feature's wardrobe.

Playing the Borg Queen...British actress Alice Krige ("Ghost Story", "Sleepwalkers").

- James Cromwell and Alfie Woodard have joined the cast. Cromwell, an Oscar nominee this year for Babe, portrays the Human scientist who developed warp drive, which powers Starfleet starships. Woodard plays a civilian who must accompany Capt. Picard (Stewart) on a journey to save the Earth from the insidious Borg. Cromwell has appeared as a guest star on an episode DS9, Starship Down. - Hollywood (Variety)

- Jerry Goldsmith has signed to do STVIII. It has been reported by Frakes that he told

Goldsmith to do a "dark" theme for the next movie.

- A few tidbits from the Grand Slam: Patrick Stewart said that Alfie Woodard plays Z. Cochrane's assistant in the next Trek movie, and that Picard spends much of the movie in her company. He said they have been filming in Tuscon in a Titan missile silo, the only one with a missile still in it. He is in civies in the scene, in a overcoat. He has to reach into his coat and hit the communicator and talk to Geordi. He also confirmed James Cromwell is in it. The cast has been shooting night shots in mountains east of L.A. He says the script is great and is what he always wanted, a good story that happens to be Trek, thus opening the movie for more people. He says Picard has changed some and feels that this is good since it will bring a new dimension to the role. He is enjoying getting reacquainted with Picard.

- One rumoured storyline says that after losing a battle with Starfleet the Borg send a probe back to the 21st century to warn the Borg of that time about Earth. The Enterprise E follows the probe back in time. The Enterprise is boarded by the Borg while an Away Team goes to Earth to try and prevent the invasion.

MISC

- A California appeals court has ruled that Eileen Roddenberry, former wife of Gene Roddenberry, is not entitled to a percentage of profits from the newer versions of the show, including Next Generation, Deep Space Nine and Voyager.

Eileen Roddenberry, who divorced her husband in 1969 was not entitled by the divorce agreement to get profits from then unconceived spinoffs, the court said.

A judge who awarded her a share of the later series profits "truly embarked on a mission to explore a strange new world," the 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles said in language familiar to Trekkies.

The 2-to-1 ruling, issued Tuesday, is a multimillion dollar victory for Roddenberry's estate, whose executor is his widow, actress Majel Barrett Roddenberry.

• Aside from some lingering 2nd-unit clean-up shooting, DS9 and Voyager wrapped their second seasons April 19, with both shows' crews enjoying the wrap party at the House of Blues on Sunset Boulevard April 21-- the first combined end-of-year party since the first year of dual Treks (DS9/TNG) in 1993. Voyager has four shows in the can for next season's UPN early kick-off.
(Info Inside Trek by Larry Nemechek)

• The DS9 episode *The Visitor* has been nominated for a Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation.

• *Star Trek Goes Western* at the 1996 Hollywood Charity Horse Show April 26 to April 28, 1996. William Shatner spearheads the show for the sixth year running. Benefiting "Ahead With Horses," a therapeutic riding group for handicapped children. DeForest Kelley and Bill will be doing an original comedy skit with Leonard. Spice Williams will be playing a Klingon woman in the skit and we may well have Bill Campbell and Mike Ansara on horseback. Also Michael Forest (Apollo in *Who Mourns for Adonis*) will ride in. Nichelle Nichols will sing the National Anthem and Grace Lee Whitney will be there. Also Aron Eisenberg, Rene Auberjonois, Robin Curtis and Max Grodenchick hopes to be there.

• "ALLEGEDLY" at a convention in Amherst, New York last week George Takei announced that the next *STAR TREK* spinoff series will star him and his exploits aboard the USS *Excelsior* NCC-2000, set in the early 2290's. An episode of *Star Trek: Voyager*, which will air in November of this year, will feature Captain Sulu, as a lead-in for the new series. Mr. Takei couldn't go into the plot, but he did say that the *Excelsior* bridge set has been rebuilt, and that Commander Valtane, Lieutenant Rand, and helmsman Boris have been signed for the episode. George didn't say when the series begins shooting, and in fact, he says it's not completely set in stone yet. While Mr. Takei said he was certain that the series deal is on, he also said that it wouldn't hurt if his fans wrote Paramount in support of the Captain Sulu series.

George said that a few concepts that he's

working on include guest spots with William Shatner, Jimmy Doohan, and his daughter, Ensign Sulu. One early plot deals with Scotty fixing the ship's transwarp drive.

• An article in *Entertainment Weekly* said that ratings for both DS9 and Voyager had fallen in the States. DS9 from 10.9 million to 9.3 million viewers per episode and Voyager from 11.1 million to 7.5 million. It also mentioned that attendance on the Cruise Trek *Star Trek* themed cruises was down by 50 percent and attendance at this year's Grand Slam convention was also down.

UPN entertainment president Michael Sullivan dismisses Voyager's weak showing. "A minor downtrend may be happening," he says, "but our core viewers are still there. And the feature film will definitely punch things up."

ON LINE

Nichelle Nichols' fans can check out the Truck Turner Homepage:

<http://www.castle.net/~dcentury/truck.html>

Starland Online Magazine

<http://starland.com/>

Athena Star Trek pages at

<http://www.cen.uiuc.edu/~paron/athena/trek/>

[Sources of information include Ruben Macias' *Warp 10*, *Engage & Dateline Starfleet*, rec.arts.startrek.current@infodan.com.]





Cast & Crew NEWS



• **Fan Mail** - Try actors' clubs first, especially with gifts! Mail sent to Paramount may not reach addressee. When writing to an actor always enclose a self-addressed envelope and an International Reply Coupon (available at main Post Offices).

Send TNG/DS9 mail to Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90038, USA.

Send Classic/Movie Mail c/o Lincoln Enterprises, 14710 Arminta Street, Panorama City, CA 91402-5904, USA

Exceptions:

Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, POB 691370, West Hollywood, CA 90069, USA. Majel will autograph a photo if you send one, or she can supply an autographed photo for \$5 plus SAE and postage. (UK 3 IRCs) Please say whether you want Chapel or Lwaxana.

Nichelle Nichols, c/o Jim Meechan, AR-WAY Prod., 22647 Ventura Bl, #121, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, USA.

Grace Lee Whitney, POB 69, Coarsegold, CA 93614, USA.

Robert Justman, POB 491008, Los Angeles, CA 90049-9008, USA

• **Majel Barrett** is taking a temporary leave of absence from Star Trek to produce and star in a new independent television series called "Battleground Earth", based on a treatment written by her late husband Gene Roddenberry. Hanna Barbera is funding the project.

• **Avery Brooks** will receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Oberlin College at this year's graduation ceremony, May 27. Brooks is artistic director of the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta and a tenured professor of theatre at Rutgers University.

• **LeVar Burton** has found a pot of gold at the end of his "Reading Rainbow." The PBS series has been nominated for eight daytime Emmy awards. Burton himself was recently presented with an NAACP Image award for

outstanding performance in an educational series.

• **Jonathan Frakes** - The entertainment news show, Extra!! reported that Jonathan Frakes may possibly join the regular cast of "The John Larroquette Show" in mid season next year.

Jonathan is currently directing the new Star Trek film.

• **John de Lancie** just finished shooting "Multiplicity," in which Michael Keaton plays a man so insanely busy that he clones himself. De Lancie co-stars as the "jerk" who causes problems for Keaton. He is currently working on a project with Leonard Nimoy and others to bring their shared passion for classic science-fiction stories to fans. They are planning an audio tape venture featuring science fiction actors in the voice parts.

• **Michael Dorn** narrates the new game "Vikings: The Strategy of Ultimate Conquest" from GT Interactive. This CD-ROM is due to be released in PC and Mac format.

• **Harlan Ellison** - After suffering chest pains Harlan was rushed to Cedar-Sinai Hospital, by his wife, where a quadruple-bypass operation was performed on Sunday afternoon April 14th. He returned home on the Friday and is reported to be recovering.

• **Colm Meaney** stars with Donal O'Kelly in a new movie called The Van. The Van is the third in a trilogy of novels that includes The Commitments and The Snapper, both of which have also been made into Steven Frears (My Beautiful Laundrette, Dangerous Liaisons, etc.) movies, starring Colm Meaney as the patriarch of a working-class Dublin family.

• **Brent Spiner** appears in a new movie, ID4. Brent will play a scientist, who works in the infamous Area 51, and has been working on

those mysterious Alien crashes from the 50's. This news is taken from Press clippings pasted together.

• **William Shatner** has reportedly agreed to appear as Captain Kirk for a CD-ROM game version of Star Trek Generations for Alameda, CA-based software producers Spectrum HoloByte. The company said that it had also secured the participation of Patrick Stewart (Captain Picard) and Malcolm McDowell (Soran) for the game. However, the nature of their participation was not spelled out.

William Shatner has filmed a guest spot on "Muppets Tonight" reprising his role from the classic "Twilight Zone" episode "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet"

Other projects on Shatner's plate include two films he'll likely direct for Showtime and a new CD ROM game. Shatner is currently filming "Prince of Zender."

• **Patrick Stewart** - Patrick Stewart and Jennifer Larmore will be Special Guests at the Fireworks Finale, Hollywood Bowl, Sept. 13 - 16, 1996.

The final weekend of the Bowl Season ending features Patrick Stewart as King Arthur and Jennifer Larmore as his Guinevere in selections from "Camelot". Plus Handel Royal Fireworks Music, with a pyrotechnic display.

Patrick has been nominated for a Drama Desk Award by the New York Theatre Critics Association, for his performance as Prospero in "The Tempest". Awards are announced May 19th

On the first of May, Palladium Interactive will be releasing Patrick Stewart's new CD ROM, "9 Worlds", quite possibly the most advanced CD ROM ever released.

For more information:

<http://www.palladiumnet.com>

For more on Soundtrack:

<http://www.spitztari.com>

For more on "From Here to Infinity" starring Patrick Stewart:

<http://www.paramount.com/homevideo/>

• **George Takei** - George has filmed as Captain Sulu in Flashback, a Voyager episode. He was working on it the last week of March just before he came over to the Generations II convention in London.

George flew to London on April 6th and returned on Saturday April 13th. On April 9th he, Jimmy Doohan and Walter Koenig recorded introductions for the complete set of Classic Trek videos which are to be re-launched here this year. The recording studio was in S. E. London.

George wants to thank all fans everywhere who have written to Paramount on his behalf to ask for more of Captain Sulu. Keep writing, please.

[Ena Glogowska]

George Takei did a voice-over for the upcoming 1997 Walt Disney film release of the animated movie "Legend of Mu Fu Lan." In the Disney film, he gets to do a song & dance routine and sing in the shower!

• **Nana Visitor and Alexander Siddig** - According to TV Guide the pair are expecting a child in September. Nana said that if and when they decide to get married, it will be a private affair, so to speak.

The pregnancy will be written into the script, but not as a half-Human, half-Bajoran. The infant will be transplanted from Keiko O'Brien into Kira when discovered that Keiko cannot carry it to full term.

• **Wil Wheaton** stars with Rutger Hauer of Blade Runner fame, in the movie Mr Stitch which is described as a modern day Dr. Frankenstein. Wil plays Lazarus who is assembled from the body parts of more than 80 different men and women. Lazarus has retained the collective memory of the dead souls he's been made of and becomes obsessed with piecing together the puzzle of his past and the reason for his existence.

[Sources of information include P.S.A.S., High Trek, rec.arts.startrek, current/infocandom, Compuserve SF Media Forum, Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet]





MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• UPCOMING BOOK RELEASES

May **Klingon Book of Virtues** by Marc Okrand

TNG40: **Possession** by J.M. Dillard

TOS78: **Rings of Tautee** by Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch
TNG tie-in **Klingon** by Smith & Rusch

June: **Inside Star Trek - The Real Story** by Robert Justman and Herb Solow,

Beam Me Up Scotty - James Doohan biography by Doohan and Peter David
VOY8: **Cybersong** by S.N. Lewitt,

DS915: **Objective: Bajor** by John Peel.

DS9YA8: **Highest Score** by Kem Antilles.

ST: **Federation Passport** by J M Dillard

July TOS79: **Invasion Book I: First Strike** by Diane Cary

TNG41: **Invasion Book II: Soldier of Fear** by Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch.

TNG: **Kahless** by Michael Jan Friedman
hbk.

• **Star Trek: Invasion!**, the paperback novels series from Pocket Books coming out in June. *Invasion!* is a four-part crossover series that runs a single storyline through all four Star Trek series. The books are:

No 1: TOS: **First Strike** by Diane Carey

No 2: TNG **The Soldiers of Fear** by Dean Wesley Smith and Kristine Kathryn Rusch

No 3: DS9: **Time's Enemy** by L.A. Graf

No 4: VGR: **The Final Fury** by Dafydd ab Hugh

The series was conceived by John J. Ordover (me) and Diane Carey. The first two books will be out in June, the second two in July.

• **Star Trek Phase II: The Lost Series** trade paperback will be released in July. *Star Trek: Phase II* was Gene Roddenberry's 1977 *Star Trek* series that would have reunited most of the original cast. It was scrapped just two

weeks before production was to begin, but it did provide the basis for the first *Star Trek* movie. Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens guide you through this footnote to *Trek* history with hitherto unseen art, storyboards, blue prints, technical information, scripts, and photos, 288 pages.

• VIDEO UPDATE

DS9 season 4 episodes

4.5 **The Sword of Kahless** May 13th

Our Man Bashir

4.6 **Homefront** June 3rd

Paradise Lost

4.7 **Crossfire** July 8th

Return to Grace

4.8 **Sons of Mogh** July 22nd

Bar Association

Star Trek Voyager season 2 Episodes

2.5 **Prototype** May 13th

Alliances

2.6 **Threshold** July 8th

Meld

2.7 **Death Wish** July 22nd

Lifesigns

Star Trek Original Series

Collector's Edition June 3rd

1.1 **The Cage** June 24th

Where No Man Has Gone Before

1.2 **The Corbomite Maneuver** July 8th

Mudd's Women

The Enemy Within

1.3 **The Man Trap** July 22nd

The Naked Time

Charlie X

Original series fans wanting to collect the tapes had better be rich. According to TV Zone come August CIC will be releasing 4 tapes a month.

• The latest *Star Trek* CD from Telarc features Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati

Pops Orchestra. Here is the track listing the new Symphonic Star Trek disc. It's also coming out on cassette.

1. Into the Final Frontier (original narration with music & effects)
2. ST:TNG main theme
3. Warp One (effects)
4. ST6 End title
5. The Destruction of Praxis (effects)
6. ST:Voyager main theme
7. Starship flyby (effects)
8. ST:DS9 main theme (This appears to be the concert version)
9. Alien Probe (effects)
10. Humpback whale song (enhanced for surround) (effects)
11. ST4 Main title
12. ST:TOS Main Theme*
13. Tribble Trouble (effects)
Suite from ST2*
14. Main Title
15. Epilogue
16. End Credits
17. Bird of Prey decloaking (effects)
18. ST:TMP "Klingon Battle"* (with enhanced effects)
19. ST:TMP Main theme*
20. Warp Eight (effects)
21. ST5 "A Busy Man"*
22. The Genesis Project (effects)
23. Suite from "The Menagerie" (original ST pilot)*
24. Transporter room (effects)
25. ST3 Main theme
26. Nexus Energy Ribbon (effects)
27. ST:Generations End title
28. The Borg (effects)

* Denotes music previously released on Telarc. All other cuts and all sound effects are original recordings for this CD.

• Hallmark has announced the Trek ornaments for this year Christmas release. They include: U.S.S. Enterprise on a display stand with a small Galileo Shuttlecraft on the base \$45; U.S.S. Voyager \$24; Mr. Spock at his bridge console \$14.95; Commander William T. Riker crouched with a phaser in front of a rock \$14.95.

<http://www.goldcrown.com/special.htm>

• Simon And Schuster Interactive will soon release Star Trek: The Next Generation Episode Guide and Star Trek: Deep Space

Nine Episode Guide CD-ROMs that'll contain plot summaries, production notes, and an hour of QuickTime video highlights.

• **The Galileo II Shuttlecraft** preparing to land <at a most peculiar angle> on a rocky surface. Sculpture enclosed in a dome. £29.95 Franklin Mint, 1 South Quay Plaza, London E14 9WS. Tel 0171 510 9500

• Portico Designs do some nice charity greeting cards (blank inside) of Patrick Stewart printed in black & white. Portico Designs Ltd., Unit 6, Siston Centre, Station Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4PQ.

• Two new CD Roms have been released, **Deep Space 9 : Harbinger**, a game, and **Star Trek Klingon**.

MAGAZINES

@• **ST OFFICIAL UK Fan Club Issue 9**. Contains articles on John de Lancie, Dr Crusher v Dr Pulaski, Travelling with the Q Continuum, Terry Farrell, plus news and reviews.

@• **STARLOG 225** April 1996. Includes an article on Michael Ansara (Kang).

@• **STAR TREK VOYAGER No. 6** (Starlog) Contains articles on John de Lancie, Joel Grey, Lisa Klunk and episode reports on Twisted, Parturition, Persistence of Vision, Tattoo, Cold Fire.

• **STAR TREK DEEP SPACE 9 No. 15** (Starlog) Contains articles on John Colicos, Alexander Siddig, Hans Beimler, Kenneth Marshall and episode reports on Starship Down, The Sword of Kahless, Our Man Bashir, Homefront, Paradise Lost.

• **TV ZONE 78** May 1996. Includes an interview with Robert Beltran.

• **TV ZONE 79** May 1996. Includes an interview with Alexander Siddig plus an episode guide to Voyager season 2, 7-21

• **TV ZONE SPECIAL #21 - X-Traordinary Special**. Includes an interview with Tony Todd (Worf's brother, Kurn; the grownup

Jake from The Visitor).

• **STARBURST 212** April 1996. Contains part 1 of an interview with Kenneth Biller, executive story editor on Voyager.

• **STARBURST 213** May 1996. Contains part 2 of interview with Kenneth Biller, executive story editor on Voyager.

• **STARBURST TV SCI-FI SPECIAL #27**
Contains an interviews with Nichelle Nicols, Andrew Robinson and Michael Ansara.

• **STAR TREK COMMUNICATOR 106** Feb/March 96. This issue includes: News, ST Update; Interviews with Ethan Phillips, Mariette Hartley, Al Smutko; articles on How to write for Star Trek, Star Trek and the Military, Viewers, plus regular column by Richard Arnold.

• **FOCUS** April 1996. Contains on article on the Sci-Fi that's Fact. It discusses the possibility of the Transporter, warp drive and worm holes.



Please read our letter on page 1.

We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 500-550 words. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. As letters may be edited for length, if there is something you would prefer us not to cut please indicate this.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

You might find it useful to use the following smilie symbols occasionally to indicate that your comment is not to be taken too seriously.

:-) Basic smilie

:~) Winky smilie

:-) Frowning smilie

• Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Kathleen Glancy - I'd say that what you were describing (about fear of the man who lived twenty miles away) is strangerism rather than racism. After all, the man from Dundee was almost certainly of the same race as the man from Edinburgh. Also there were periods in history - or perhaps it would be truer to say prehistory - when there seem to have been lengthy periods of peace. People lived and flourished in their own region and were quite content to stay put; the restless ones may have gone walkabout, possibly as traders, and while a stranger (other than a trader or travelling tradesman, most of whom had a regular route, so were known) might have been regarded with some suspicion (why had he left his home village? Had he been exiled as a known thief?) there was no reason to expect him to be hostile. The problem only arose when climatic changes (for example, those which caused the Norse to go a-Viking) forced some of them to move and go raiding in order to survive. Look at the Americas - the first Europeans to arrive were greeted as friends (okay, I know that 'the gods returning from the east' had something to do with that); it was only after they had proved themselves not to be

friendly that the native Americans reacted with fear and violence. Unfortunately they didn't have the technology to fight back successfully.

To Jean Perrin - Re TOS being about people and relationships which are not in the other series; I've been having a discussion with Neil Barrett in which that subject came up, and we're in agreement that somewhere around 30 years ago, maybe a little more, the 'buddy-buddy' relationship that had been common for decades (and led to some excellent stories) was dropped like a hot potato by professional publishers, presumably for fear the readers would assume the characters were gay. When you come to think of it, this does coincide with the more permissive and human rights era. This could certainly explain why TNG, DS9 and Voy do not have characters with the close friendship shared by Kirk, Spock and McCoy in TOS.

To Vered Gilad - Re Odo being hit on the head by a rock; when he sees someone trying to hit him with something, he 'liquidises' the appropriate part of his body so that the weapon goes through him harmlessly (which looks good but how come the top part doesn't collapse to the floor since it suddenly lacks the support of something solid?) but if he doesn't see something coming, presumably it will impact on his body with a thud. In this case, I find it easiest to accept what they show without worrying about credibility, especially since they also forget about mass. If you take mass into consideration, someone Odo's size would make a *very* heavy rat, suitcase, glass or table!

To Alan Stephen - Re Harlan Ellison. I accept that he has a right to his opinion, although I do wish he would stop classifying *all* fans as obsessive idiots. My main problem with Ellison, however, is not *what* he says but *how* he says it. He comes over (to me) as unnecessarily rude in a manner that appears to be over-compensating for something, living in a world of black and white where everyone is either A or C, whereas in fact most people come into category B, somewhere between A and C. I'm a Trek fan, but I have a life outside fandom and a

number of other interests; I do not consider myself obsessive about Trek.

Ellison can hardly blame Gene and Trekkdom for a Paramount exec wanting Mayans in a Trek script. (Actually, that was one time I did fully agree with him, and thought he was remarkably restrained in what he was reported to have said.) Re City - I think Gene always agreed that Ellison's script was a good one, but it didn't fit the universe that Gene was still building. I wonder if the Justman/Solow book, due in June, will give us any insight re this subject.

As for what is a good story; it depends what you are looking for. One person's favourite is someone else's "That's dire!" The same goes for the novels; but if the ones they print are the best 6 per year in each category (TOS, TNG, DS9 and Voy) out of the hundreds allegedly submitted, the others must be indeed terrible.

To Edward Woo - I too like Sisko calling Dax "old man". It's a nice touch that underlines how long Sisko has known Dax, and also indicates that Sisko can see a similarity between Curzon and Jadzia that can only have been caused by Dax.

To David Raper (and others) - I've said it too, what happens at Tuvok's next pon farr. I've now come to the conclusion that Berman & Co have probably decided to ignore it - which would be on a par with the rest of their total obliviousness of continuity.

Re DS9 season 4 - I've come to the conclusion that (from my point of view) it's like the curate's egg. There are some very good episodes when they forget about the threat from the Dominion. Re the 2-partner Homefront/Paradise Lost - I admit I thought it started well, but fizzled out in the second part. But I wish Berman would stop thinking that the only way to attract an audience is by increasing the level of violence in the series.

• Mr J R Robinson - Bishop's Stortford

To Anike Bissinger - You have got the wrong man. I didn't mention anything about the Maquis or weapons-dealing. The Vulcans are a peace-loving race and would not buy -

and certainly not sell - weapons to anybody.
[Sheila - This happens occasionally, when a reply is accidentally addressed to the wrong person. We don't have time to check that a reply is going to the right person.]

• **Jacqueline J Comben - Rhossili**

To all who feel that Tim Russ is not a convincing Vulcan - this Vulcanophile begs to disagree. He cannot help his age, which I suspect is less than the 42 Earth years which is the Human equivalent to that implied for him. He clearly studied Spock's portrayal with care, which is bound to endear him to me. (In Trek terms, I would say he learned Standard English from a program produced by Amanda with help from her son, and logically, tried to copy the pronunciation exactly!) I like Tuvok, remember that many people of 42 seem much younger - so why shouldn't a Vulcan of 100 - and only wonder why he is still a lowly Lieutenant!

To Marie Raper - I stand by my comment in the sense in which it was meant. Of course you can appreciate Trek in all its forms. What you cannot do is know the very special and unique impact which the Original Series had on those of us who were adult when it first screened. You grew up with it in the background - or even the foreground - but since you cannot remember life before it, you cannot know the "Wham, bam, this is great!" amazement with which we greeted it. The nearest I can recall, recently, was when Alien Nation dared to make the guy carry the baby. I would say that had very much the same sort of impact. Did you see that with no prior warning? If so, can you see what I meant in my original comment about Trek? I did not mean to insult everyone under 43, I was merely trying to explain that there is a generation gap which neither generation can help and that my generation needs to appreciate this and not get hot under the collar when younger people fail to see what we see in the original series. Also, some much younger people, who have seen TOS only *after* TNG, cannot really appreciate how startling it was for a US series to have a black female officer and an episode such as Devil in the Dark.

To James O Donovan - I doubt if there are

many half Human Romulans, so Spock's DNA would be a teensy bit unusual - especially if it is possible to detect the coding for T-negative blood, rare even among Vulcans.

• **Jason Rorbach - Bucknall**

Starting on DS9's Way of the Warrior. What an excellent starter for DS9's fourth season - the Klingons back at war, the arrival of Worf and a strengthened relationship with Cardassia. Whatever criticism DS9 has taken in the past I think most people will agree this is the No. 1 show for special effects and great storylines, so what are the implications from this opening episode? Are Cardassia and the Federation total allies? They did save them after all. Are the Klingons really a threat? They lost quite a few ships to DS9 without engaging a Federation ship.

Where do the Maquis stand with the Federation/Cardassian alliance? Would Gowron attack Picard in battle? Your opinions, please.

To Clive Viagas - The Galaxy Class vessel on the Way of the Warrior poster is the USS Venture, leader of the relief force sent to help DS9. The scene on the poster does not happen, it's just an artist's impression describing the episode in one go.

To Gratiennne Vandekerkhove - ST:V did not do too well because of the arrival of TNG, but it's a great film; I watch it quite a lot. It's a bit like one of the classic episodes but with a bigger budget.

To Lesley Moyes - I had not heard about the new threat on DS9 - they sound rather mean. In the episode Indiscretion, Kira and Dukat disguise themselves in Breen guard uniforms that look rather like Princess Leia's bounty hunter suit. Could the Breen be the new threat? They have been mentioned enough.

To Vered Gilad - I think the reason Sulu got his command was because the writers wanted him out of the way so the Enterprise would need a new helm officer; this made a place for Valeris the conspirator. They probably did not think of the questions asked

afterwards!

To Alberto Gorim - The Enterprise-E is still being designed, but if you have seen Way of the Warrior, there is the new Klingon flagship the Negh'var. This ship is also seen in the future scene of TNG's All Good Things.

Finally, to all - Do not worry! DS9 will not finish. For one, Michael Dorn has signed a 3-year contract with DS9, so it cannot end - yet. By the way, how come Dax can transport and Odan cannot?

Not forgetting - thank you for the Easter card, Jessica Lemmer.

• **Helen Cakebread - Coventry**

I am sorry if people took me the wrong way. I do enjoy the IDIC newsletter and I shall stay a member as long as it runs; the only reason I commented was you wrote about the lack of members and a few people I spoke to said the letters were a bit long. I tend only to read bits.

[Janet - We appreciated your comments Helen and you have every right to make them. I just wanted to explain why putting in more pictures isn't really a viable option - b/w ones often don't come out well.]

We need to print comments like yours to see how other people feel.]

On the tapes 'Taken from the Rec Room' (where people can air their views) one tape said "Why do we need Vulcans?" I'm glad they came, for it opened a world of science and also opened an outlook on things we take for granted, for example showing emotion, fear and love. Then there are the Klingons - powerful warriors, proud people in honour, etc.

When I said "pictures" I meant the small B&W ones, not colour as there are other books around for those.

I'm reading Ashes of Eden (and I did read the back - I couldn't help it!) Maybe as Kirk has come into Picard's world Q has now come to fetch him so he can make adventures for Kirk, who dies to return (like a time tunnel)?

I agree conventions are too dear; but why can't someone hold a convention in Birmingham with no guests so all ST fans can meet? My sister and I can only go for a day, and I looked forward to minicons.

Voyager - I enjoyed The 37s where they got the ship to land. I love the Doctor, Kes and Tuvok - some of his ways are like Spock. Tim Russ said he read up all about him, but he also has his own interpretation, like the glint in his eyes when he speaks of his family. Even Paris is becoming more likeable.

To Michael Flett - Have you never gone anywhere and ended up further away? What about TNG or TOS - they used to be sent out on missions but got side-tracked, though they had a base to return to. Voyager is just going in a larger circle. I don't care how long it takes them to get home as long as they keep making episodes - unless they can update TOS or bring back some of the crew of TNG! What happened to Uhura - did she make Captain?

(Just watched Devil in the Dark again. The look on Kirk's face when Spock gives him the odds is magic!)

• **Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford, Essex**

The "downsizing" of the IDIC readership is probably due to a number of factors:

There seems to be far too much argument about the pros and cons of the various different forms of Star Trek. Whilst a level of debate is healthy, it makes tedious reading after a while. People like different things for different reasons. I've enjoyed all the various manifestations, but none of them are perfect - but then if you're talking about the hectic process of episodic television (or even film) there are always going to be a couple of rough edges in the writing, acting or whatever - and the people involved aren't always going to be one happy family.

Star Trek is starting to suffer seriously from the effect of appearing on different media at different times, some not available to everyone. Therefore the latest DS9 or Voyager news is not going to be relevant to some of us for years. With some on the "fast

train", seeing the episodes as they appear and the rest of us subject to convention showings or the "slow train" of terrestrial television, discussing the 'latest' episodes is meaningless. *[Sheila - We do recognise this as a problem, but there's no simple answer for it. We can't ignore the episodes on the "fast train" just because a lot of people have no access to them, because a lot of other people do, especially since these episodes are coming out on video, or are being very fully resumed in Starlog, long before being shown on BBC.]*

The level of merchandising is starting to have a negative effect. You don't have to buy it, and once you've decided not to buy this seems to have a knock-on effect. Viacom's behaviour is not helping either.

The emphasis of the newsletter has shifted over the last ten or so issues. In the "thirties" the topics might have shifted off pure ST but were frequently interesting and the level of discussion more lively and varied. With a shift back to orthodoxy it just isn't so much fun.

Whilst I am not suggesting that IDIC should become a general newsletter, it needs to widen the catchment area and relax what is or is not considered relevant. *[Sheila - The "shift back to orthodoxy" came about as a result of a number of complaints we received that the newsletter was getting too far off Trek. Looks like we just can't win!]*

• White Hawk

To end the discussion on Chakotay's "religion", may I advise those who are interested in this to read *The Murdered Sun* by Christie Golden (Voyager 6). This is an excellent book, with great quotes to explain the spirit guide and other Indian beliefs and culture.

Bill McClure should study the culture for real, and not rely solely on what Trek has said in only two episodes. Do not forget Chakotay is a fictional character - perhaps that is why no Indian tribe wishes to be connected to him?

To Ambassador T'Pol (Maggy) - Keep

up the good work in your letters. Great poem! Is there any more?

To Chris Howell - I say Vulcans would try to find a peaceful solution to a problem - surely this is obvious? Aggression doesn't solve anything. Sisko handled the situation fairly well, I thought.

To end, I will remind readers of the IDIC club motto - "The glory of Creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

• Carole Taylor - Rawtenstall, Lancs

To the committee - I'm very sorry to hear about membership dropping so suddenly. Please don't feel disheartened, though, there are still plenty of fans who appreciate IDIC. I'm nearly into my third year as a member and still think IDIC offers excellent value for money. I shan't hesitate to renew, and I'm sure I'm not alone.

To Everyone - Was anyone watching *Here and Now* (a current affairs type programme) on BBC 1 on 10/4/96? If not, you missed a very rare thing indeed - that is, *Star Trek* fans being shown in a good light!

With the help of an American psychologist they reached the conclusion that ST fans are not sad, obsessed people who should "get a life", rather that we are a very sociable bunch who enjoy meeting and discussing a common interest. Jimmy Doohan and Walter Koenig had much the same thing to say as well.

To Vered Gilad - I very much enjoyed your article *Relationship*. Being a fan of TOS myself, I agree with all of your comments. Although I wasn't born when TOS was on the air for the first time, I don't think the lack of special effects spoils the show, because I prefer to watch a story about the characters and, first and foremost, that's what TOS was.

• Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

I fear that the days are gone when a letter-writing campaign (N/L 45, P8) would work, especially this Classic Trek one. It rather presupposes that the OS actors are available, willing (if I were Majel Barrett I

don't think I'd like to go back to "Nursie loves Spockipoo" after Lwaxana Troi), affordable and fit. As for the notion of a Sulu and Daughter series - that isn't plausible. Would Starfleet assign a person to serve under her father? Of course not - it would be problematic for both of them. The Captain could be faced with sending his child to face danger of death, or else failing in his duty by trying to protect her. The daughter would have a hell of a time with her crewmates, who would be watching for signs of favouritism. She'd find it hard to make friends, between those who feared she would tell tales to daddy and those who hesitated to approach her lest it should be seen as trying to get on daddy's good side. He'd have to let her reports be done by the First Officer to avoid the accusations of nepotism if she was recommended for promotion, but this would mean that she was judged differently from the rest of the crew - and of course the Captain reports on the First Officer, so those who were convinced she was getting an easy ride wouldn't be mollified. Of course there would also be a danger of her being treated more harshly than the rest of the crew in an attempt *not* to show favour to her. These people, I fear, are in that small percentage of fans who don't live in the real world.

Re Leonard Nimoy's novel - if his aliens are looking to *twentieth century Earth* to teach them to get along then they must be in the father and mother of sociological messes and it defies logic that they would be so technologically advanced.

To Bill McClure - Native Americans might also take exception to the Classic episode *The Paradise Syndrome*. This depicted them as far more *primitive* than they were - I've seen perfectly good if simply designed oil lamps in US museums among "Indian" artifacts, but this shows Kirk bringing light to the tribe. More *superstitious* than they were - admitted that the Spaniards were indeed taken for gods by the Aztecs, they had the benefit of a mythology that predicted a white-skinned deity would return. They also appeared on creatures that the Aztecs had never seen - horses - drawing miraculously propelled conveyances - wheeled carts. The PS tribe's mythology is

that a shaman from within the tribe will use an artifact to avert disaster, yet they assume Kirk - who appears on foot - is a god. The only person to doubt it is motivated by jealousy, not logic. *Violent* - they start throwing stones at their 'god' the minute he puts a foot wrong, with only a minimum of rabble-rousing. Their late shaman, Salish's father, put his own ego before the good of the tribe by not passing on vital information. (If you think of it the whole thing was Salish's father's fault. Had he done his duty, Salish could have said with authority that there was no reason for a god to be sent, as *he* knew how to avert approaching doom, therefore Kirk was only a man. A simple test to prove which of them could enter the obelisk would prove his case. The tribe would have either adopted Kirk, or possibly enslaved him; the real American Indians did not kill without good reason. Miramanee might have been attracted to him, but would have had no excuse to offer herself to him in marriage - she'd have been stuck with Salish. Salish would have duly diverted the asteroid, Kirk would have been retrieved by Spock and Co, Miramanee would not have been stoned to death. Salish - a very bitter and violent person, prepared to kill the woman he hoped to marry if it got his successful rival too - might have been a nicer person if not embittered by his father's failure.)

To Gul Melset - On the other hand, lions and tigers can crossbreed, producing different results if it is a lioness and a tiger from the offspring of a tigress and a lion. But I do take your point. Especially in the early days of fan fiction, one tended to wonder *why* Spock faced prejudice as a child since it seemed that the only Vulcans who had *not* married Humans were those raising a Human, invariably female, foster child. Nowadays it's the same for Klingons.

To all who have commented on Harlan Ellison - Let's have a bit of balance here. His original script wasn't exactly perfect as it stood. I agree it must have been annoying to have his opening sequence, which showed that substance abuse and pushers were still around, neutered as it was. *But* he also had Kirk telling Spock he had when very young, done the equivalent of running off to sea and

had served on the equivalent of tramp steamers. Since it had already been established that Starfleet had an officer training academy and Kirk was a product of it, that was both silly and unprofessional, since it argued a lack of research into the character. Ellison is a talented writer, but he has an ego of remarkable proportions. And Gene Roddenberry isn't here to put his side of the story any more.

• **Gul Melset - Cardassian Embassy**

To Fioranna Limonci - "Evolved as far as we have..." It is amusing. I saw a photo of a semi-nomadic tribe on Mindanao, and the caption was, "This is the way humanity should still be living as mentality and emotions are still that of the tribe, of gatherers and hunters".

To Vered Gilad - First of all, I greet you, my friend! Your comment about names being mispronounced reminded me of what still happens to me - my name is mispronounced, misspelled, to fit whatever ethnic group people feel I belong to. It is irritating, isn't it? The worst is shortening it to show familiarity. I feel it is regrettable Siddig el Fadil changed his name - heritage is important, and a valuable part of one's being.

To Dave Styles - Some fans really take Trek all too seriously to the exclusion of all else. When I briefly left fandom, I was dropped like a hot potato by a number of contacts I had considered friends, because they thought leaving fandom was betrayal. Trekkers who love the series, but do not make it the only important element in their lives, are the best friends to be found, as they do accept another way of seeing things. The individuals who threatened that actor are no fans - they are obsessive.

To Sandra Necchi - In this time of political correctness, all too many people equate a lively discussion with aggression. A discussion is nothing but a presentation of different views, using language to avoid conflicts based on these differences, and learn more about the subject under discussion. On our staff, discussions are a relaxation, even though they occasionally do become slightly loud, but never would any of us think of

ending a discussion because others adhere to their opinions - I can imagine nothing more boring than constant agreement. Actually, it is a shame that it has even become necessary for a fan to write an article reminding us of what IDIC is all about after 30 years of praising the concept.

To Edward Woo - I would not, *very definitely not*, want Sisko, whom I like and respect, replaced. He is a fine diplomat, and only rarely is influenced by preconceptions. That we are regarded with a measure of distrust is unavoidable due to past occurrences, but he is one of those willing to accept us, and co-operate for the common good.

To Gary James Foggo - If I had time to go to cons, I would go in costume for one day, just for the fun. I like the inventiveness of my fellow fans in producing the various kinds of clothing and uniforms, and certainly do not consider it ludicrous. Choosing an alter ego is no sign of maladjustment, either; it is a further way of seeking contact or showing a willingness to enter a discussion, to have fun or to relax. My own interests are language, geophysics, evolution, ornithology, foreign customs and cultures, and most of the fans I know have a wide variety of interests as well. For some reason it appears that many consider it fine to sneer at Trek fans, but not at the other, assuredly much more narrow-minded and aggressive groupings, some of which have already been mentioned in the newsletter.

• **Miriam Moss - Sutton, Surrey**

To Bill McClure - Re Cardassia/Bajor analogy. I have a slightly altered analogy. Remember, Bajor is described as a planet under occupation by an invading power. The Jewish analogy cannot hold as the Jews did not constitute a territorial entity akin to that of a nation, therefore the occupation analogy does not work. Nazi ideology defined the Jews (as indeed they did all of humanity) in terms of race, not nation. Since the parallel with the second world war seems otherwise consistent, it is reasonable to assume this aspect of historical detail would likewise fit the jigsaw. Bajor appears to be France, which was very definitely occupied by the Nazis

during the last war. Kira would thus be a member of the French Resistance - very highly motivated, without the strength to be as effective as was necessitated.

To Kathleen Glancy - Re racism as learned/instinct. I would disagree that racism is an instinct. Racism is a social phenomenon, ergo operated within those parameters, varying in specifics according to the cultural/political variables at a given time. The propagation of racism as instinct tends to be advocated by those who have most to gain from such ideology within society as a whole, rather than those such as yourself who seek its ultimate elimination from this planet. To define ideology as instinct effectively makes a difficult, albeit desirable, task seem completely beyond reach. Such synopses favour those in power both politically and socially, since it implies that their world view and concomitant privilege is unlikely to be threatened.

To Ruth Borgars - Re women in TNG. I agree completely with you. I have found the portrayal of both Troi and Dr Crusher frustrating in the extreme; not least, it suggests that the ideal worlds for those male writers are those in which women are reduced to outdated stereotypes, with their roles and power strictly defined. This is reflected in the numerous storylines in which both characters are contained within plots involving romantic/family scenarios - maybe Barbara Cartland would like them, but I don't think any of us would choose her as our reference point! Troi and Crusher are portrayed in traditional healing roles - psychological and physical - hardly a radical departure! Oh, and why could Troi have to be only an empath - was the idea of her as a full telepath construed as being too "unfeminine" by the powers at Paramount? (Interestingly, B5 has the telepath - Talia Winters' ex-husband - emerge as an empath after some form of neurosurgery - going against typical typology). Also, many episodes suggested that Troi's empathic ability was not that hot, eg in Cause and Effect, in which she is consistently unable to sense any of the *deja vu* reported by the crew or any other anomaly present in the sensory environment. So, even while performing their male-defined

'inferior' roles they are still deemed deficient in what is endeavoured by the gallant knights in their armoury of logic. Not mega progressive.

Now a couple of general comments. I prefer Trek episodes where both ambiguity and debate predominate - easy solutions are anathema to dilemma faced in worlds both present and future, real and imagined. I cite two examples to illustrate my point. First the DS9 episode in which a young Jem'hadar materialised on DS9 and the station officers had to face the decision over whether to hand him back to his own people or keep him on board the station in order to examine/understand his species - a solution initially favoured by Bashir but opposed by O'Brien. The latter's decision is laced with unease - the outcome is neither taken for granted nor assumed to be generalisable.

The second episode is, surprisingly, a Voyager one (given my dislike of this particular incarnation of ST) - a Doctor-centred episode in which the computers apparently malfunction causing the Doctor, as an entity apparently totally identical, or at the very least as inevitably interdependent - to experience oppressing ontological crisis. Defining human as real and himself as unreal - if merely existing as part of a nonsentient non-organic entity who, because it is functional rather than sentient, implies the Doctor cannot himself be real or perceive himself to be real, if not defining himself as human. *I'd be scared, dammit!*

• Vered Gilad - Suffering from a severe writing fit

Way of the Warrior - I have two conflicting feelings regarding this episode. The first was WOW, this was one hell of an episode - fast, very funny, great scenes, impressive - what else can a series ask for? A true ratings generator, and that brings me to my second feeling. I enjoyed the episode very much, *but is it ST?* For the sake of ratings, the whole peace treaty between the Klingons and the Federation was thrown down the drain. I don't know what this means to other people, but I always make analogues between ST and real life, and as someone who lives in a country where peace is bought with the very

high price of bloodshed, I cannot see peace thrown away so easily. The part in the episode where they are all set and ready for the attack, where they put all the civilians in a secure place and when the red alert klaxon is sounded and you can see the civilian reaction, not only the military's - these bring back many uneasy feelings for me, and I sensed dread, and that was not the right feeling for ST.

To Alan Scobie, P36 - You're right. Peace is such a bore... I'll remind you of that the next time you have a war at your doorstep (How do I make a cynical grin?) For the sake of peaceful stories, I say let's bring the Organians back. GR knew what he was doing. With the Organians he prevented the series from turning into a constant war show.

To Bill McClure, P17 - I don't remember writing that Ellison promotes B5 merchandise; in fact, I never said such a thing. Around here we hardly have any kind of merchandise, but we have a lot of ST books. Strangely, we also have B5 ones. Don't you have those in the States? Or are these not considered merchandise? I doubt this is the only merchandise there is - can anyone confirm this?

And Bill - what about Berman's last name??? By the way, I think the Cardassians represent the whole of the German people - good and bad (I salute Gul Melset).

To Penny Robinson, P18 - I noticed your email address. Have you ever thought of sending fanfic to the alt.startrek.creative newsgroup? You can get comments from other fanwriters just like yourself. If I were a writer, I would find this very helpful, especially considering that they can share the same experiences you have. As a person who is only a reader, I prefer not to be harsh at all when it comes to fan writers, because I know how hard they work. On the other hand, criticism can help one improve, so it may be that I am depriving an aspiring writer of his chance to improve. Maybe a fan writer should state how much criticism (if any) s/he is willing to bear.

To Gul Melset, P20 - I remember reading

in one ST novel (Sarek or Spock's World) that Amanda had to go through a long series of treatments to be able to conceive the first Human/Vulcan child, so maybe it was not meant to be; but with certain help from 23rd century science, it can eventually become possible, albeit not easily. Sex is probably safe with an alien...

To Jean Perrin, P28 - Strangely enough, I never saw strings when I saw the old Enterprise or its shuttles. I could never even imagine strings. I am still amazed at how they did it in those days, and all I can do is salute them.

To Alan Stephen, P30 - Ellison has a right to be angry at Paramount because of all the disappointment he suffered, but on the other hand, what exactly did he expect? He was asked to write a script, and scripts are routinely rewritten by producers. He should have thought about this before he signed the contract. I had no idea people were sending him horrible messages via a computer bulletin, but this is the nature of such a thing. It is free to all sorts of comments, including Ellison's. Why *do* fans send him horrible letters?

To Brenda Allan, P31 - You have a point (re tests on people) but I think the example you gave isn't the best. The percentage of people who went through these tests is rather low, so not many people knew about them, and if I understand correctly, a lot of those submitted to the tests were not the "average Joe" but convicts, retards or sick people who weren't aware of the danger they were exposed to, and didn't connect their death with what they took. In the case of Cardassia and Bajor, a lot of manpower was needed to run the camps so a lot of people knew, but from my discussions with Gul Melset, I can understand that the Cardassians have "ways" of preventing the "leakage" of such info.

To Jill Searle, P 36 - I reread your letter (N/L 43) and have to admit I misunderstood. Sorry. The question is, what do you suggest be done? Roddenberry is dead and the original cast is too old to continue. We cannot bring those things back. We can bombard Berman with letters, but you know how

much good that can do... Maybe there should be an all-original series N/L for fans who feel like you, but the truth is, it's a lot easier to discuss new things that are happening now. For me, CT is the best of all ST series, but I enjoy watching the other series as well, though I guess my reaction to them is different.

• **John Wigley - Stockport**

Re my letter in N/L 45 - Yes, Sheila, I did mean I Am Spock. The funny thing is, I had my copy of the book in front of me as I wrote the letter!

I've just got a copy of *The Way of the Warrior* - it's astonishing, cinematic, reminiscent in that sense of *Best of Both Worlds*. As I am one of the many who are dishless, my knowledge of DS9 comes from the BBC2 screening, so a bald, bearded *Captain Sisko* was a bit of a shock; but he's obviously grown in stature, joining the other great bald Captains - Jean-Luc "Shiny" Picard and James T "Allied Carpets Cut-off" Kirk (and before you all grab your pens, I apologise for the poor taste joke!)

TWOTW got me musing (we do a lot of that in Stockport, there's not a lot else to do). Modern Trek seems unique in US TV in its large groups of quality actors, all interacting, playing off one another and having fun without anyone playing to the camera and hogging the limelight. Compare this to *Murder One*, a fantastic and gripping series, but Daniel Benzali is so dominant that he seems to suck the life from those who surround him.

All that's left is for me to say "Well done!" to Jonathan Frakes. Live long and... er... thingy.

• **Jay Stevensen - Essex**

Does anyone expect Paramount to react positively to a new letter campaign (P8) calling for more Classic Trek? I know it worked in the 60s, but a few things have changed since then - production costs and Mr Shatner and Mr Nimoy's salaries, for a start! We know that George Takei would love to bring Captain Sulu to the small screen, but has anyone asked the other names mentioned

if they want to be involved? It's quite possible they don't.

To Vered Gilad, P29 - Sulu continues his Starfleet duties because George Takei has been fighting for years to keep him doing just that!

To Anike Bissinger, P40 - I agree that the media publishes a lot of nonsense. Newspapers and magazines frequently quote each other, often inaccurately. I think the piece you mention is a garbled version of an SFX interview Leonard Nimoy gave during his recent British publicity tour, in which (with his tongue firmly in his cheek, I would guess) he claimed that although he still had conversations in his head with Spock, he was no longer "allowed to reveal what he said" because the Vulcan was "getting upset about me quoting him for all the world to read". (It could also have been a polite way of suggesting that the interviewer change the subject!)

To Lesley Arrowsmith, P27 - I also thought that *The New Voyages* edited by Marshak & Culbreath was literally "new"... and that Titan's "the New Star Trek novel" advertising slogan is also a big con. Hasn't anyone told them about misrepresentation?

To Pam Baddeley, P22 - You're right, some of the 60s and early 70s series are embarrassingly awful when viewed today. The "best" episodes of Classic Trek (ie the ones that rely on story and characterisation) stand up surprisingly well. Many of the SFX weren't so bad for the 60s either... but thumbs down for the badly made uniform shirts (no wonder Kirk's kept ripping). A lot of the "scientific" accessories were prophetic, too - as pointed out by Helen White on P49.

To Jenny Turner, P30 - I doubt if Leonard Nimoy had any choice in the towns he visited during his publicity tour - except Nottingham for the LN con! Pity you couldn't make it - it was great!

• **Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent**

Email@trekdata.demon.co.uk

I really hope that this drop in memberships is only temporarily. It certainly

has nothing to do with a drop in quality. I am always looking forward to the next newsletter and I especially enjoy reading the postbag. At least I enjoy discussing Star Trek with others, although I am not very comfortable in groups. Therefore I prefer to do so in writing.

Concerning favourite DS9 episodes: my favourite episodes of the first season are Duet, The Forsaken and Vortex; of the second they are The Wire, The Alternate, Necessary Evil and Blood Oath; of the third they are The House of Quark, Civil Defense, Past Tense and Improbable Cause/The Die is Cast and of the fourth season (so far) they are The Way of the Warrior, The Visitor, Little Green Men and Our Man Bashir.

My favourite episodes of the first Voyager season are Eye of the Needle, Faces, Jetrel and Caretaker; of the second season (so far) they are Initiations, Maneuvers, Meld and Cold Fire.

Knowing most of the fourth DS9 season, I don't think that Kira's character lost something. I got used to her new hairstyle and suit, although I agree, the heels are not only inappropriate, they are dangerous! Some of my pen pals can't get used to the fact that Kira is now more relaxed, that she smiles more often and occasionally jokes. I think that is great! Now we have a peace treaty between Cardassia and Bajor, the war is over (for now) and it would be sad if Kira would be unable to let go of her past as a freedom fighter. But when Kira is confronted with a dangerous situation, she changes back immediately to the efficient warrior she is at heart. You can see that very well in Indiscretion and even better in Return to Grace.

To Catherine Hill - Normally I don't buy Classic novels but because it was written by Peter David I bought "The Captain's Daughter". What a great book! It has been a long time since I enjoyed a Classic story and I am hoping for more good Sulu stories. I think if Classic should be back on TV one day, it should be the adventures of Sulu and the Excelsior. And wouldn't it be great if his daughter Demora would become his

helmsman?

To Elaine McCue - I don't mind Worf in DS9 as long as ALL characters get opportunities for character development. This has been the case so far. With me it was the other way round. I liked The Sword of Kahless although not so much the effect the artifact had on Worf and Kor. I am surprised that you like The Sons of Mogh. So far it is the only episode of the fourth season I think is absolutely terrible! <SPOILER> First, it is very strange that asking your brother to kill you is more honourable than to fight to get your honour back. Second, Bashir's willingness to participate in this "solution" completely astonished me, especially after his stand in "Life Support". And third, no one even bothered to ask Kurn if he agrees to this procedure! I would object strongly if somebody intends to wipe my memory!

To Alistair Blackett - There are two opportunities to see a Ferengi female and both of them are indeed headstrong rebels! The first is in Rules of Acquisition (second season) and the second is Rom's and Quark's mom in Family Business (third season).

• **Martin Stahl, Marktheidenfeld, Germany**

To Alistair Blackett - Actually, you will see two episodes with Ferengi females. In both of them they are headstrong rebels and wear clothes. The first one is Pel in Rules of Acquisition who disguises herself as a male until Rom discovers her ear prosthetics (female Ferengi have smaller ear lobes). The second female is - guess it - Quark's and Rom's mother in Family Business, who committed the big crime for a female of doing business and even making profit. In a few scenes she undresses herself, but you don't see very much.

To Gul Melset I fear the scientific advisers simply don't understand the concepts of genetics and evolution. They got lost in their technobabble. During Classic Trek many things simply weren't explained and left open to our imagination. When they explained something, the explanation did not contradict our current knowledge. For example, in an Austrian TV show I once saw Jesco von Puttkamer explaining the warp

drive. I think you all know about this space warp and the warp field creating a small universe around the Enterprise, enabling it to fly faster than light speed. At the moment we simply don't know enough about quantum mechanics to say whether this is possible or not, so it can be accepted as science fiction (although Stephen Hawking said he is working on this problem).

It is the same with time paradoxa. No one ever travelled in time, so we can't say what really happens when I go back in time and kill my grandmother, and it is open to our imagination. But since the later seasons of TNG the scientific advisers try to explain everything into detail, and most of their explanations simply contradict our current knowledge - for example mixing of races. Episodes like Rascals, Genesis, The Chase (although I like this one), and Threshold make everybody who knows a little about genetics or evolution laugh - because it is simply wrong. A certain species evolves its way because mutations happen accidentally, and this mutation is favoured by circumstances around it. So nobody can predict into what we will evolve, nor could the seeders implant their genetic material into the ancient oceans of all planets bearing humanoid life now. By the way, I think that natural evolution of mankind has stopped now, since there is no natural selection any longer. Due to modern medicine and our technology even the weakest individuals now have the chance to procreate so that selective pressure is lost. It is rather possible that mankind would degenerate and become more and more dependent on technology so that natural evolution with mutation and selection would only have a chance again after some kind of war or catastrophe that would destroy all of our technological civilisation.

My top five of DS9: Whispers (I am a big O'Brien fan), Armageddon Game, Our Man Bashir, Move Along Home, Visionary. The grammar correction of my Word just tried to persuade me to replace Our Man Bashir with Our "Human Being" Bashir or our "Individual" Bashir. Perhaps I should tell Paramount to reconsider their episode titles. ;-)

• Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent

To Bill McClure - No one is attacking freedom of speech. I realise that everyone has their own opinions, and that usually I am in a minority of one. However I think one has to be careful in exercising that freedom of speech. For example a disagreement can be aired in two ways. One can say "I disagree with you for the following reasons..." and start a constructive dialogue. Alternatively one can say "You're talking crap!" and give offence. Perhaps these are extreme examples, but it is this sort of insensitivity which causes arguments rather than discussions.

To Martin Stahl Re Iman - Perhaps I'm a bit thick, but I'd never heard of Iman before STVI, and I've never heard of her since.

To Alan Stephen - I'm sorry but I'm not sure what your comment in NL45 was getting at. To be honest I don't think we ever had a "protracted disagreement over comics", rather that I accidentally offended you a couple of years ago, and you've been attacking everything I've ever written since :-)

To Sandra Necchi - In answer to your question about Kazons - Yes, Me! Look at your "average" Trek baddie (Klingon, Romulan, Borg, Jem'Hadar...) They are all technologically sophisticated, socially advanced. I like the Kazon because, by their own admission and hints from various episodes they are basically a bunch of barbarians who have managed to plunder interstellar technology. Boarding the Voyager by ramming (in "Manoeuvres") demonstrates how a race which at first sight could hardly be considered a threat to wonderful Starfleet technology can be a major menace.

To Alan Scobbie - The fall of the Federation! Wouldn't that give scope for some excellent storylines!

To Clive Viagas - The Galaxy class ship in the poster for "Way of the Warrior" is probably the USS Venture, as it is this one which appears at the end of the episode.

Rip-off of the month Generation II - The Party

And finally - Re the changes being mooted for the newsletter. Personally I enjoy a talkshop, and would oppose cutting back the letters section in favour of several reviews of the same convention. I would also oppose the instigation of a separate CT section, much as I love CT, as I feel this would only serve to actively divide the club.

• **Stephen Shaw - Stockport**

Sorry to hear that membership is falling. There are so many sources of ST in its various guises at present - with five series, and different folk watching them on BBC, Sky or Video. We are no longer all watching the same episodes!

To Kathleen Glancy and Neil Sati-EUREKA - this really means "the Children's Museum in Halifax" where you can regularly see Archimedes taking a bath and displacing the water. It's near to the Railway Station in Halifax but you need a child to take along....

To Jill Searle - welcome to visit our "local" private railway, Bury-Rawtenstall. Steam or diesel, take your pick. Even a commuter service when the snow stops the buses from getting through. Nice 6-seater first class compartments to sit in and discuss Trek all day. (Or go all the way and hire the GWR Saloon Coach for the day!).

• **Christopher Howell - Coventry**

IDIC N/L 45 - 'The best, last hope for peace.....' :-)

While I like the Klingons in Trek, I can understand why some fans have had enough of them. It's about time the producers exploited the Romulans, they've been there from the start, and yet 30 years later what do we know of them? - They're a offshoot of the Vulcans, find Humans curious, make good adversaries and erm, that's it.

I hope that future episodes of DS9 or even the next Trek series feature the Romulans more, in the same way TNG explored the Klingons and DS9 the Cardassians. Until then can anyone answer or speculate on the following - *why* did the Romulans go missing for 50 years?

To Sandri Necchi - re: Kira's 'new look' - agreed! As for the 'New DS9', I disagree, sorry Sandri! Bareil didn't contribute enough to the show, apart from *The Collaborator* and ironically *Life Support*.

The Dominion Arc *has* benefitted DS9 and in particular, Sisko. This character was set up for *Emissary*, after which he became one of the extras. As from *The Search*, we began to see what sort of person he is and in *Homefront/Paradise Lost*, what he believes in. The Dominion's presence has also introduced the Defiant, which has again been helpful to Sisko's character. The ship adds action to DS9, which has (over here at least) made the show more popular. Best of all, the writers can now *expand* the format of the show without changing it completely - they can continue to do the introspective stories (*Facets*), ship-bound stories (*The Adversary*) or both (*Rejoined*).

To Lesley Moyes - re: the new threat, I hope this is a rumor. To kill off the Dominion *now* would be a mistake, since there's a lot of potential for future storylines there. As for this new threat themselves, how threatening are they? Personal cloaking devices are already used by the Jem'Hadar, and as for 'fire when cloaked' technology, remember the battle in Star Trek IV? Then again, they could be the 'Solids' which caused so much misery for the Changelings in the past.....

To Baerbel Schmidt, Sheila Clark and Micheal Flett - re: The Founders, POSSIBLE SPOILER ALERT - The 4th Season finale is supposed to involve Odo finding a infant Changeling, still in its pod! I hope the finale clears all this up because this mystery is giving me a headache!

To Michael Flett, again - I'll forgive *The Visitor* because it made me cry, and *Non Sequitur* for Harry Kim's girlfriend! But yes - the Delta Quadrant is *huge*, and the whole point of Voyager being 'lost in space' was to have New Adventures etc. The writers seem to be addicted to the Alpha Quadrant as the Jem'Hadar are to Ketracel-White! The sooner they lose this addiction, the better.

To Bill McClure - Garak's comment in

Improbable Cause made me laugh, because in a way it's true! But DS9 *can* teach kids - in the same scene Bashir says 'If you lie all the time, no one will believe you, even when you are telling the truth.'

As for the 'retooling of history' - how do you retool something which hasn't been defined? ST: Destinies is going to clear up what's happened between now and the formation of the Federation, any major 'retooling' would be totally inconsistent with everything we've seen from *The Cage* onwards, and I don't think Paramount are *that* silly... :-(

• **Margot Sykes - Hawkhurst, Kent**

I was greatly saddened to read in N/L 45 that membership of the club is falling - the Committee does such an excellent job and must work very hard. Please just hold in there, no doubt fans will start to drift back again when they come to their senses!

CT entered my life in my late teens - it's hard to describe the impact this programme had in the 60s, it all seems so long ago and technological advances in the last 30 years made the 60s look rather primitive! But even so, I still enjoy watching CT and simply rise above the wobbly scenery and papier mache rocks. The characterisation and many of the plots stand the test of time well. However, TNG is still my favourite Trek and I am sorry the television series has stopped production. (I still haven't seen them all, I only have access to terrestrial TV so I have a few good weeks left!) I have tried watching DS9 but regret to say that I have given up on it. I found I really didn't care what happened to the characters, because I didn't find any of them interesting. That's just my opinion and my taste, no reflection on scriptwriting, actors etc!

Despite my lack of interest in DS9 I have absolutely no intention of leaving the club. It is still a great forum for discussion of all forms of Trek, and I love reading the Postbag. I also like fan fiction and have found some good zines courtesy of your adverts. I also like reading convention reports - I doubt I will ever get to one in person, but reading the various reports is the next best thing. I

particularly enjoy reading two or more reports of the same convention - the different perspectives can be fascinating.

Personally, I would have no objection to paying a higher membership fee if necessary - I look forward to receiving a big, fat newsletter every two months, and have felt slightly disappointed that the last two have been 20% less fat!

• **Alan Stephen - Bridge of Don, Aberdeen**

It saddens me too to see the drop in membership in IDIC; this fanzine has to be the best Star Trek bargain around (if that's not worth a free sub, I don't know what is!) News, chatter, discussions, arguments, tiffs, fun, fun, fun. Maybe with all the ST magazines around, some fans just want to read them and watch the videos, and not get involved - sad, really. Or it could be that there is just too much ST and the ST bubble has deflated somewhat?

At first I was quite excited about the proposed Star Trek/X-Men comic book; originally the creative team was to have been Chris Claremont and Adam Hughes, who were behind the marvellous ST graphic novel Debt of Honor. Due to other work, they are not available - the writer and artist will now be Scott Lodell and Marc Silvestri. A book I would have ordered in advance - I think I'll wait now and see, as I've never been too keen on their work. This crossover idea has come up before, when DC had the licence; they wanted to do a Star Trek/Superman book. This was knocked on the head by Paramount execs because, they said, Superman isn't a real character! Shouldn't someone tell them that Spock, Kirk, Picard et al are played by actors?

To Dave Styles - Let's not bicker, let's agree to disagree. I've enjoyed our little discussions, but it's time to move on. Hopefully we'll meet at some convention and we can share a pint or two. Did you enjoy my friend David Simpson's article on ST comic books? He did an excellent job - far better than I could.

To Brenda Allan - If the Voyager encounters a force field, why not just call it a

force field? When you see a bird fluttering in the sky, do you say it's some kind of bird?

To Sandra Necchi - Oh, how I agree with you! Amazing SFX does not a good SF movie make. Look at recent tosh like Total Recall, Jumanji, Lawnmower Man 2 - as I've said in the past, the story's the thing. Get that right first, and everything else should follow. On the subject of IDIC, what has kept me a member has been the heated discussions and debates. It's very cathartic to get things off your chest. However - and I may be guilty of this myself - our verbiage may be off-putting to some fans. What I think we should do is use IDIC to spotlight the positive aspects in the myriad interests that are covered under the Star Trek umbrella, so whether your interest are the TV shows, movies, books, comics, games, trading cards, costumes, model making, convention attending, you should be able to comment and criticise without anyone whose interests are different from yours criticising you for enjoying what you enjoy.

Apart from the pilot I haven't been too impressed with Voyager. However, two recent episodes shown on Sky have shown marked improvements - SPOILER ALERT -

Maneuvers, which sees the return of Seska, Chakotay's old flame, who with the assistance of the Kazon (who have changed from being the joke of the Star Trek universe to being a little more mean) is out to capture the Voyager; and Resistance, which is even better and gives a chance for Kate Mulgrew to really shine. These episodes may not be classics, but they indicate a quality in the scripting which may one day provide us with the classic stories that we are all looking for.

• Jean Sloan - Liverpool

It's great to see Helen White back as a contributor - I really enjoyed the article on the ST Exhibition written in her own distinctive style.

To add my voice to the supporters of Tuvok - I think he makes an excellent Vulcan. I came to that conclusion during the episode where Tom Paris is accused of murder (I greatly admire people who can remember

titles) and I think he has grown stronger since then. I don't feel the need to compare his "Vulcan-ness" with that of Spock; Spock is half-Human and younger. However, Tim Russ has definitely got some of Leonard Nimoy's mannerisms.

To Penny Robinson and others re the fan-fiction-feedback issue. I think this is a real problem. As an occasional reviewer of zines, I see my role there not so much as providing feedback for the writers as giving potential purchasers a flavour of the zine to inform their choice of whether to buy or not. I know that Neil would probably contend that I should be more constructively critical, but liking or disliking a story is subjective. One person's "interesting detail" is another person's "irrelevant detail, let's get on with the plot". If I am not enthusiastic about a story it is usually because the characters are not explored; but character exploration may not have been the intention of the writer. It is quite easy to offer constructive criticism if a story is badly planned and written. However, most of the stories I respond to in review have been edited, and that first level of criticism is not relevant. The next level of criticism seems to me to be about the finer crafting of the story. The issues here seem both more delicate (writer's confidence) and more subjective (my likes and dislikes as a reader). If someone asked me to dissect their story in this way, I would; but I would never offer such an analysis unsolicited; because even if you critically pick out both good and bad points, it is in human nature to notice the negative and miss the positive. The writing circle described by Pam Baddeley is a good idea. By joining in you would then be agreeing to have your work scrutinised.

To everyone - N/L 45 contained some very high quality bick... er... debate. It is interesting to get comments from members abroad offering slightly different perspectives. I thought Sandra Necchi's comments on the IDIC N/L were particularly heartening coming alongside news of the falling membership.

To Edward Woo - I agree with both you and Helen. I did enjoy seeing Crusher dunked, but I thought there was little point to

the whole scene in terms of story. I suppose that the idea was something to do with keeping up the theme of naval imagery in the films... or perhaps it was just to fill in time...

• **Marcia Stanislawski - Israel**

Hi, there, folks! I didn't write to IDIC for awhile, due to the hard dose of reality we've been having here, but I sure missed everyone!

I've recently watched DS9's The Circle again, and was surprised when Sisko contacted a Starfleet Admiral named Chakotay. I wonder if he has anything to do with the other one...

To Bill McClure - Sorry if I'm disappointing you, but I didn't exactly back you up in my article. I wrote it for N/L 43, but for some reason it was printed in No. 44. So okay, we do agree that ST can leave a strong impact on children, but sadly that's where our agreement ends. It's clever, taking positive statements from TOS and TNG, and pitching them against a 'negative' one from DS9 the way you did; but I'm sure that if I looked, I could find some negative comments in TOS, TNG, Voy and even (why not?) B5. But what would I accomplish? All these series, if they really want to mirror humanity and comment on it, *have* to show both sides of the coin. Just by showing negative things doesn't mean that a series can't be positive at its core.

Just look at the character who uttered your 'gem': Garak, whose people have a sense of morality very different from other races.

Bill, I can accept the fact that you don't like DS9 - you've made that clear - but if you don't like something, that doesn't necessarily mean it's *bad*. In order to promote the things you do like, you don't have to thrash the things you don't. Can't you just say "TOS, TNG and B5 are great"? I know about freedom of speech, but there is such a thing as being over-aggressive. A little bit of self-restraint wouldn't hurt!

Tolerance is the word we should all heed. I think that we are all here to share something, to enjoy our similarities and our differences,

not to bicker endlessly over them; that is undignified and unnecessary. Stop and listen! We should care about what we say and *how we say it*. Words have power, and we have a responsibility not to misuse this power.

As for the post-Roddenberry changes in Trek, what I think is - ST was Gene's child, but like any child it has to grow, leave its parents' house and expose itself to other influences, forging its own identity, albeit retaining its essence. ST will always remain Gene's child, but that doesn't mean it has to stay forever unchanged.

To Floranna Limonci - loved your letter! I think you said it all...

To James O Donovan - Does that mean that Homer Simpson is a more primitive version of Jean-Luc Picard? Mmmm... I'd think that after 400 years, he'd know how to keep his hair! Of maybe he just wants to keep his roots in the past (bad pun DEFINITELY INTENDED!!)

To Margaret Connor (N/L 44) - Re Mr Berman's view of the future. I agree with you; I don't think he's corrupting anything, in fact I think he's staying true to how things could really happen in this future history. History has a way of repeating itself through the mistakes of people, and set-backs *will* happen in smaller - or bigger - scope. Remember TNG's The Drumhead. Like Picard said to Worf, we should always be vigilant; the worst mistake people can make is believe they are past this kind of thing because they are "so advanced". Earth's ancient civilisations were very advanced in mathematics, architecture, astronomy, art... yet all those big Empires fell, and humanity plunged into the Middle Ages, where ignorance and fear reigned, and it took us a long time to break free from it - we still hear its echoes in our society today. Hopefully, in the ST universe optimism will prevail, and the Klingons will realise they made a terrible mistake.

Anyway, Gene's vision of a positive future did not include the whole galaxy - there were always hostile aliens, and, occasionally, Humans. It's unrealistic to think

that people will ever be completely peaceful and/or have perfect morals. If such a day ever came, we would cease to be Humans and become something else. Maybe that's the next step in our evolution - but we're still very, very far from it.

To Christopher Howell - My top 5 DS9s are: Duet, Necessary Evil, Second Skin, Past Tense and Facets.

And remember, everyone. Say what you mean - say it loud, but *don't* say it mean.

• **Jean Perrin - Burton upon Trent**

The Klingons have always been my favourite baddies. They only sought peace with the Federation in ST:VI because their homeworld was about to be destroyed by their moon, but this does not seem to have happened - does anyone know why not?

To Veronica Duthie, James O Donovan, etc. Re Data's position in Measure of a Man. One thing I don't understand is that if Data wasn't sentient, he could never have legally joined Starfleet in the first place, so how could they then claim ownership of him and say he could not choose to leave?

To Diane Burch - If you want to find local Trekkers try Starfleet Command, address on P79 of N/L 45. They have "ships" all over the country and there should be one covering your area. Once you join you can be as active as you wish, and earn promotion points for attending meetings, writing articles for the magazine and a whole range of other activities of your choice.

To Jenny Turner - If UFOs are out there, why do they keep coming here? If they have seen us and considered us too primitive to fulfil their version of a Prime Directive, why do they keep coming back for another look? We are not going to change in a few months. Having ascertained that we are here, the sensible thing would be to come back in twenty years.

To Alan Stephen - Re Harlan Ellison. Don't you think thirty years a tad long to be bitter against ST? After all, of the two people he blamed most, Gene Roddenberry is dead

and William Shatner is beyond the pale to a lot of people. His episode was regarded as one of the best ever, and he is now involved in B5. Isn't that enough revenge for anyone? Bitterness is like hate, it can do you more harm than the people you are bitter about because I doubt if anyone at Star Trek loses much sleep over what he thinks of them.

To Christopher Howell - I know Nog passed the entrance exam, but I still say he couldn't have done so. It's like someone struggling to learn to read today and passing four A levels at Grade A in six months' time. (Apologies to our Scottish members, who'll have to work out their equivalent for themselves.) Life doesn't work like that. It was just poetic licence for some unknown agenda they have for Nog.

• **Rhiannon - USS Invention (finally 18!)**

To Ben McLelland - How right you are about the "which series is best" debate. I wonder if any of those who "share" their views in this way have understood the meaning of IDIC.

I recently saw The Way of the Warrior and I really liked it. (Which is more than can be said about my first reaction to Ben Sisko's new 'hair'-do. It'll probably take me some time to get used to that.) The Visitor had me in tears - what a great Jake story! I think I am finally getting in to DS9... thanks to the friends who sent me those episodes. I don't mind Worf coming to DS9; it might be interesting to see how his relationship with Odo and Quark develops.

To Bill McClure - Dear friend, I usually try hard to be open-minded and tolerant towards other people's views, but when I read your letter in the last N/L. I thought I could not let you get away with it! I feel your comparison between Cardassians and Nazis to be most inappropriate, not only because it arouses the impression that Germany is the only country that has had really dark chapters in its history. Ever since man "left his tree" there have been oppressors and oppressed. In every chapter of the history of mankind you will find such parallels, which is not something positive, but something true, anyway. I do not like your comparison,

and here's another version of it. Bajorans = native Americans, Cardassians = the American settlers.

To Alistair Blackett - We did have a female Ferengi in the DS9 episode Rules of Acquisition. Her name was Pel and she pretended she was a man. A great episode!

To Sheila & Valerie - I liked your article about writing. All I can say is that I completely agree with you. I always did (and still do) write because I want to see that idea developed, and because nobody has written that story that way before. I write because it gives me the ability to see other worlds without even leaving my desk... So much about personal satisfaction.

To Neil Safi - About the carpets. Remember Mission Farpoint? Wes had to clean up after having left puddles on the corridor in front of the holodeck. Guess what - he did do well, so the Captain decided to have him do the cleaning up after everybody! (So that's where he really went. He never ever left the Enterprise.)

To Vered Gilad - Maybe Odo goes not go back to his liquid form when he faints because he has got so used to the Human shape? Why is it that some people, after having spoken a foreign language for a longer time, even use that language in their dreams? Because they get used to it.

To Robin Dunn - Welcome, and know that I agree with you.

Actually, I wanted to write something funny, but I know only one joke about Klingons and it's probably so old everyone knows it already, but I'll give it a shot anyway.

- How many Klingons does it take to change a light bulb?

- None, 'cos Klingons are not afraid of the dark.

- What if one of 'em is?

- You shoot him 'cos he's a coward.

- And what do you do with the light bulb?

- Shoot it too, it did not fulfil its duties!

(Okay, you Klingons out there - it's just a

joke!!!)

• Nicole Comtet - France

Although I have given up Star Trek conventions since they have changed so much from what they were ten years ago, I thought I would make an exception with Generations 2 since it was probably my last chance to see on stage James Doohan, Walter Koenig, George Takei and Bill Shatner - Leonard Nimoy was also scheduled but unfortunately he could not make it, British Airways having cancelled the flight he was booked on on Sunday. That was a great disappointment, but we had seen him (much better) at the Spotlight convention last year. Anyway, we had a great time. It was wonderful to see these veteran actors from the Star Trek of 30 years ago as game and witty and lively as ever - whatever Rick Berman and his gang may say about them! They were cheered and acclaimed, and it was good to see that Bill Shatner received a standing ovation at his two appearances, after all the criticisms and attacks people have thrown at him. I was glad to meet George Takei again; he gave me a nice autograph and dedication in his book To the Stars.

I was also impressed by Avery Brooks, who represented DS9. His talks were quite interesting and thought-provoking, and I was able to tell him how much I enjoyed his presentation when he sat for the autograph session. Robert Picardo, who plays the Doctor (the only character I can stand in Voyager) was quite articulate and entertaining, but in a more lively way than Avery Brooks. As for the other guests, I somehow skipped them, spending more time in the sales rooms or in the restaurant upstairs having tea with my fellow fans from France.

Actually, the audience was quite international. I suppose that the majority was composed of classic Trek fans, for I did not feel that kind of rift which was so apparent between the TNG fans and the others in other conventions.

I read occasionally in the newsletter of people who are "fed up with Klingons". Well,

so am I! I think we have seen enough of them in Star Trek without DS9 being saddled with NG Klingons and Klingon wars! DS9 was all right without them, but Paramount risks the ruin of the series with the introduction of the Klingons. I think it is insulting for the DS9 cast.

As for Voyager - what I think is best is the Doctor, the music and the credits visuals. The rest I find flat and uninteresting compared to Babylon 5 which is now aired in France and is becoming enormously popular among the many fans now disappointed with Star Trek. Paramount had better watch out, because they are now up against tough competition!

• **Lesley Arrowsmith - Three Cocks, Brecon**

To Meg Lahey - Re unfriendly aliens on Voy - it reminds me of a line from a mid-80s Radio 4 SF series, Earthsearch. Being shot at by yet another unfriendly race, one of the heroes says, "Why is no-one ever pleased to see us?"

Re Rowan Atkinson in DS9 - I can see it now - Captain Blackadder of Starfleet Command, followed around by scruffy Ensign Baldrick!

• **Catherine Hill - Burntwood, Staffs**

To Bill McClure - Re "take away DS9's uniforms and you've got Babylon 5" - no way! I respect that this is your opinion and I reserve the right to disagree! DS9 is a show in its own right and, more than that, it's a brilliant show! I find DS9 superior to B5 and I also find them very different to each other.

Don't get me wrong, I love B5, but it's not Star Trek and never will be as good; and DS9 certainly doesn't try to *imitate* B5. DS9 is DS9, and B5 is B5 - and that's that!

On another point - yes, Trek has impact on children. TNG has had (still has) a big impact on my life, but then so has DS9. I don't think DS9 gives out bad messages. I think it actually gives out realistic messages. I think kids need to know that people in life aren't always going to be sweetness and light; they need to be made aware and prepared that some people will hurt them, so that

these people won't walk all over them. Having said that, I like the "positive" messages of TOS and TNG, but I think they need to be balanced with the down-to-earth DS9 ones.

To David Gallagher - I think the person I would most like to see write an episode or film for Trek would be Peter David. He's a brilliant writer and I think it would be really interesting to have one of his novels televised. They'd be, however, very expensive and very confusing. Q-Squared would be fun, there are loads of different timelines and realities; and Imzadi, too.

To Ambassador TYomin and Sandra Necchi - Re TOS and "the spirit of IDIC" attitude - Yes, there are TOS fans out there being slated by the uneducated "new" Trekkers, but there are also "new" Trekkers (like me, although I have been a Trek fan for 7 years) being slated by TOS fans! People are all for saying we should respect TOS fans because TOS was the beginning of Star Trek, etc, etc, and believe me, I think that's the right attitude to have, but then I think, perhaps TOS fans need to respect *us*, the "new" fans, a little more. Just because we're young doesn't mean we don't have opinions and feelings which can be hurt just as much as yours can when TOS is slagged off. IDIC is all about respecting *everybody's* point of view, letting everybody have their say. Sure, there's always be disagreements, but we should be able to start lively, but not aggressive, discussions.

Having said all that, I must point out that I am still a *Star Trek* fan, not a TOS, TNG, DS9 or Voy fan, but an *all of them* fan! - even though I prefer the newer three.

• **Pam Baddeley - Farnborough**

To Sue Bursztynski - You are so right about fan fiction. I wrote 4 ST novels and loads of Dr Who articles and stories in the 1980s and more or less put pro writing on hold. Ended up with a block that took about 4 years to overcome. Now I'm doing my own original work, though no success as yet apart from a (yes, can't get away from it) Dr Who short story published by Virgin last July. So I second your warning to Carol Sterenberg.

To Meg Lahey - Irony that you liken Harlan Ellison to an ultra-conservative, because he's rabidly "liberal" in the American sense of the word and violently opposed to those sort of people.

David Simpson's comic books article was interesting. I bought the annuals (that reprinted them) every Christmas but only occasionally came across the Gold Key originals. I did get quite a lot of the TV21s too. Some were definitely better drawn than others.

To Sheila - Your review of Long Night. Shined is the past tense of shine if you're American! (For the benefit of US members, the British one is shone - pronounced as if spelled shon.) It surprised me a lot when I first started reading American novels but I've come across it so many times now, it's obviously yet another example of "divided by a common language". *[Sheila - Fascinating! I'd never come across it before. Mark you, some years ago I had a long discussion with one American about grammar, and she said that a lot of common American usage, including usage in professionally published material, was in fact grammatically wrong. From observation, I've been of the opinion that verb changes were more likely to be through irregularising regular verbs ("dove" into the water makes me cringe!) than regularising the irregular ones. I can see some sense in "shined", though - say three times, very quickly - "I got my shoes shined by the shoe-shine boy...".]*

• **David Williams - Emsworth, Hampshire**

This is my first time writing although I've been a member for a couple of years now. I think I'm going through the "Is it just me...?" phase at the moment. Maybe it's because I've watched so many episodes time and time again I start to wonder...

* Why does Dax pilot the Defiant when all other Starships are piloted, strangely enough, *by pilots*?

* Why is it that USS Voyager, supposedly the latest, most advanced ship Starfleet has ever made, is so vulnerable? If it gets hit by so much as a hand phaser from a thousand

yards the bridge explodes, warp engines are off-line and there's a hull breach!! Didn't anyone test drive it before leaving spacedock?

* The separation scenes in Generations certainly added to the drama, but hang on a cotton-pickin' minute! I thought everyone lived in the saucer section, not the engineering hull!

*Am I being a little too suspicious, or does anyone else think that Cassidy Yates will turn out to be a Changeling. She's a bit too nosy for my liking.

As I say, maybe it's just me, but if anyone can explain the above I would sleep a little better at night.

• **Edward Woo - The Scientist**

To Catharine Hill - I always thought when people said, "Captain on the bridge" it was a naval term just to inform the bridge crew to be alert to the commanding officer's presence. Does anyone else know?

Yes, the 37s was an excellent episode, and an even better idea would be to use that planet as a springboard for Starfleet operations in the Delta quadrant. Even if Voyager travels back to the alpha quadrant it could leave a trail of small colonies educated to Starfleet values - this would mean recruiting all alien cultures.

To John Wigley - I think you are missing the point in Gambit II. I think Worf and Co were able to see that Riker was just pretending to go along with the mercenaries' plan, just by his words and actions. After seven years association, they would instinctively know.

To Vered Gilad - Everyone has been comparing Spock and Sarek with Tuvok. Both Sarek and Tuvok are full Vulcans while Spock was half Human. Could it be that Spock was going over the top to be a true Vulcan, hence distorting the image of Vulcans we have, in comparison to Tuvok?

Good point about Odo - if he is unconscious, he should turn into a liquid.

Also; what happens after 16 hours of unconsciousness? Will he just melt away? Surely it is his active mind that holds his shape.

To Jenny Turner - Like you, I think there are aliens and UFOs and one day they will show themselves. It is the military who are really scared of such things. The military on Earth is considered the most powerful element of the human arm; if the military admits there are UFOs and aliens out there, this means such cultures are technologically far superior, and that is a hard pill for them to swallow.

To Brenda Allan - DS9 is a great show. Many have said that ST on a space station would restrict storylines; however, look at the success of Babylon 5, set on a similar space station - also doing very well.

To Sandra Necchi - I do remember now seeing those awful heels on Kira - they are ridiculous. Major Kira of the first 3 seasons was far superior. If her costume was restricting her movement, why not make a larger version of the same jacket, not this current Babe-looking one that Ron Moore apparently likes.

To Leslie Moyes - I cannot agree with you that the Federation should fall in the next few years. It's been at peace such a long time it would destroy any faith in Human society. The Cardassians now have a treaty with the Federation. There has been no full-scale war with the Romulans, either. In the episode The Homecoming, Sisko said people were willing to die for a cause - but what about living for a cause?

To Anike Bissinger - Nog struggling with his Starfleet entrance exams is realistic. If he is to become the first Ferengi to graduate, the struggle will be worth it; also to attain the rank of commander (as in a recent storyline). Not everyone is a boy genius (like Wesley C.)

Why would the Romulans want to help the Maquis? Simple - the Maquis is trying to force the Federation into war with the Cardassians. Such a war would lead to both sides depleting resources, which would then

be a prime time for Romulan expansion. Unfortunately, both Romulans and Cardassians have recently been knocked for six by the Dominion, thus leaving them vulnerable.

Even though we've had speculation over the Doctor's name (Voyager) keeping it uncertain makes life interesting; but I believe he will be named before Voyager finishes.

• **Teresa Whaley - 32 Moyné Rd, Sawtry, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 5TN** (Letters welcome; some even get answered!)

The Postbag Blues

I'm really sad and depressed,
My feelings can't be suppressed.
After reading all your views
I have caught the 'postbag blues'!
Janet's opinions were so very strong
- For her Generations was so wrong;
But what she did not say
Was "If you like it - you will pay!"
She respected our right to choose
Alas! This cannot alleviate my blues.

For if you like Deep Space Nine
Why - that is just fine;
But forgive me if I cry-
I'd rather sit and watch paint dry!
Let me say what I feel

(Before that paint can peel) -
Star Trek Voyager is really sad
(Just as her hair is really bad!
Should it be loose or in a bun?
The debate should be *fun*!)

Yet no-one should get the blame
For our views are not the same.
Just think how boring it would be
If all we do is sit and agree!

Remember, please! Without Kirk and
his crew

There would be nothing new;
No TNG or Voyager, or even DS9 -
And wouldn't *that* just make us whine!
So please cure my postbag blues
And respect each other's views!
Wear a uniform. That's your right.
No need to argue or even fight!

Say what you *like* about Star Trek;
Do not become a nervous wreck.
I want to hear what you say
About the world of Trek today.
And I'd just like to point out -

A whisper is often heard above a shout!

Rom's mother (she's a wonderful character).

• **Leslie Moyes - Glenrothes**

Wow! DS9 season 4 has really been "hotting up" and every episode so far has been superb! WOTW may be better than Generations, but in my opinion neither will make Best of Both Worlds like something out of a playground - and DS9 has had its BOBW anyway in Improbable Cause/The Die is Cast, still unequalled; The Visitor is also another strong episode. Gene would have loved this one, and I'm sure Hippocratic Oath should open up more Jem'hadar storylines.

On the debate of which show is better, I enjoy them all, though DS9 is my favourite; *but* I have recently rewatched a few TOS episodes - Dagger of the Mind (brilliant! but what happened to Dr Helen Noel?? :-), Spectre of the Gun (Surreal!) and Day of the Dove (WOTW was the remake! :-)) and I found them as refreshing as any season 4 DS9 or season 2 Voyager episodes; so do all those narrow minds wear anoraks? :-) Do we really care about what they say?

By the way - I am going to a B5 con in June as well as Contagion - so long live *both* sagas in the spirit of IDIC.

• **Helen White - Blewbury**

SPOILER ALERT I've just watched Rejoined (DS9) and it's excellent. I daresay that I'll find faults on a second viewing, but my first impression was of a carefully thought-out story. Basically, a Trill female comes to DS9. She used (in a previous host) to be married to one of the previous Daxes, and she and Jadzia Dax find themselves attracted to each other. This is totally taboo in Trill culture, NOT because of same-sex but because of relation-complications. (You can just imagine it - 'Mother, meet my mother-in-law, who was also my previous mother-in-law and my ex-wife who is now my son-in-law') The story ends on rather a predictable note, but that's because of the restrictions of being involved with a main character. I was dead impressed.

To Alistair Blackett - re female Ferengis - keep watching DS9 and you'll see Quark &

To Leslie Moyes et al (whoever al is) - New Trek authors, eh? What about Blyton Trek? 'Noddy goes to Bajor', perhaps. Here, I've just realised - Quark is really Big Ears! And I can just imagine Voyager:

Janeway: Well Mr Alien-being, you haven't been very friendly, have you? (Stares sternly at defiant alien-type person)

(Aside from screen) -

Chakotay: Oh, Katy, I do wish you'd behave like a proper girl. You're not a boy you know.

Janeway: Call me Katy again and you will die horribly, you nasty ethnic-type person. (to screen): Well, what have you got to say for yourself?

Alien-type: Oh help, it's the Famous Five! I give in, I'll come quietly!

Neelix: Would anyone like some of this food? I've got heaps of Lithurian lettuce, piles of Talurian tomatoes (pronounced tom-ah-toes in the English, Blytonesque way, of course) and lashings of Kazon ginger beer?

I think it would make an interesting change....

Finally, I've just been watching Little Green Men, and it's *hilarious*. DS9 Season 4 seems to be shaping up very well.

• **John Stubbley, York**

I like the diversity of locations that people are writing from. Not just the UK but Europe, North America, Australia and the Far East. Exciting, eh?

Does anyone else think there are NUMEROUS parallels to be drawn between the new series of B5 on Ch4 and the recent series of DS9 episodes in the States? 2 Space stations, 2 diplomatic centres, 2 menacing enemies, 2 super-ships and the outbreak of war in both universes. Hmmmm!

To Dave Styles (P31) - I think Vulcanologists sounds a bit like

Volcanologists - volcano experts. Still, given the nature of the planet Vulcan it's probably appropriate. Can I get qualifications in Vulcanology <grin>?

To Jill Searle (P37) - It's a shame you feel that way. Fandom has definitely changed over the past 10-15 years, by all accounts. I hope it continues to have a place for CT-only fans. I fear that should Janet and the committee decide enough is enough and move on then IDIC will become a maelstrom of 'modern' Trek and much the worse for it.

To Elaine McCue (P41) - Aaargh! Have you been reading my mind? A large part of your letter made sense to me. I'm prepared to stick with it though because there is so much I haven't done yet.

Re: US Navy (P62) - WHERE did that come from? It's hilarious!

Re: Tuvok - I think Tim Russ has done an excellent job with the character of Tuvok. He is brilliant. We don't get all of the peculiar Vulcan attributes all the time - he's just there oozing Vulcan all the time. I would have liked Tim and Tuvok to have been on Enterprise D. I think it needed that Vulcan touch. Can we promote him to Captain?! Please, no long lost brothers!

Re: Harlan Ellison - Harlan has always been known for his 'forthright' views within the Sci-fi community. He brings a new meaning to the word outspoken! He writes great Sci-fi though so most people seem to read his works, enjoy them and ignore his tirades.

Re: New DS9 opening titles - First time I heard the new title music I thought it was a Christmas special edition with all those sleigh bells. I still chuckle when I hear it now! DS9 story of the year - Our Man Bashir! Yes, Trek humour is alive and well (and disguised as 007)! I would love to see the outtakes.

Here are some lightbulb jokes that I've just made up (and you can tell!):

Q: How many xxxxx crew members does it

take to change a lightbulb?

A1: Enterprise - 3, Scotty to change it, Spock and Bones to argue whether it is logical to have light bulbs on a futuristic starship!

A2: Enterprise D - 2, Geordi to change it and Data to nurse it back to health!

A3: DS9 - 1, Chief O'Brien does all the engineering work!

A4: Voyager - 0, There aren't any spares for B'Elanna to replace it with!

Any refinements or alternatives greatly accepted!

• Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Feline purr-fectly wonderful

Can anyone explain what is going on with the N/L? Last year I could hardly wait to receive the next one, now I'm afraid I'm suffering terminal indifference. Maybe it's just that I've grown up.

It has come to my attention that my comments, whether here or spoken, have offended certain people. I was not told this directly but discovered it quite by chance via a friend. Now if I am guilty of insult or offence, and the people concerned are reading this, I would like to know exactly what I'm supposed to have done then I can either (a) clear up any misunderstanding, and/or (b) apologise.

To the guy who wanted a Klingon uniform - try "Starship Ch'illik'utu, 15A Clevedon Rd, Ingol, Preston, Lancs PR2 3YL. They might take a while but the workmanship's good - I have one! Also, they're cheap!

To cat lovers everywhere - I now have TWO cats in the Supreme at Birmingham, my black beauty, Ceilaer of Bubastis, won her place in January. (In February, she won a very nice silver cup in another cat show.) And with the demise of my little Jadzia Minbari-Squish I now have a black-and-white kitten currently unnamed who I have great hopes for.

To anyone - re merchandise. No matter how sophisticated it starts out, it always descends to the lowest common denominator - as long as there are prunes out there with pockets (or parents' pockets) big enough to buy it. Like my pristine blue living-room carpet - no matter how often I Hoover it, it always ends up cat-litter yellow.

Re Chakotay and the desert/gulf question. (Me being the friend referred to by Jude Taylor). Tattoo answered the question - if you spotted the references. The Dorvan Five reference was hazy but it was there, so that puts him in a non-nomadic tribe (ie Pueblo or further south). The language the forest Indians spoke sounded like Papago (Mexican border) or maybe Guarani (Paraguay) but in both cases almost extinct languages. The reference to "india-rubber people" had me in hysterics, as if you speak Nahuatl the word for rubber is "ollin" and for people "meca". The first known civilisation in Central America were the Olmecs. Did anyone else spot the "ancient aliens" reference? Ouch! What with "Anasazi" in the X-Files and now this, come home Eric von Daniken, all is forgiven! Finally on this subject, the clothes worn by the Central Americans were straight from "El Primer Nueva Cronica y Buen Gobierno" by Felipe Waman Puma de Ayala, written in the sixteenth century, most notably the drawing of Ataw Wallpa and that of the Inca stonemasons.

Tribble genetics. Yes, OK. I knew the colour-changing thing - a friend breeds Siamese cats. My question was quite simply how can a tan-coloured tribble have a litter comprising tan, brown, black and yellowish offspring? I had thought of the similarity with a tortoiseshell cat, but as most of a tribble's body is geared to reproduction (no they're not "born pregnant" - this was McCoy being sarcastic) there must be something to account for it, especially as they're hermaphrodite!

On this subject, Neil Safi and Helen White have been awarded tribbles for their comments. If you're there, please collect them at Wolf 359 - I'll be in the Dealers' Room. I've lost count of the tribbles I owe

people so you can always remind me..... See you there!

• Anike Bissinger - Germany

SPOILER ALERT - I've just seen the first couple of episodes of DS9's new season (thanks, Les!) and I have to admit that I'm totally thrilled with it so far (and very relieved that my concerns weren't fulfilled). Way of the Warrior is really brilliant! What do all of you think about the way the Klingon/Federation alliance did break up? I think this is very sad, but the episode does give a good and plausible reason. I only hope that we won't end up in a cold war situation equal to the one in CT again!

I think the new Cardassian situation is very interesting - and very ironic. I mean Cardassia surely has to redefine her role in the quadrant. With the Obsidian Order destroyed, their government just reformed and many of their colonies still in the hands of the Klingons, the conquerors suddenly became the conquered! They surely will need some time to digest that!

What I don't like is what they did to the opening title - it sounds just like Babylon 5 in my opinion - and the theme was so beautiful before that (don't take me wrong, I love Babylon 5). I just think this rhythmic addition doesn't suit DS9.

Top 10 DS9s? (But that's due to constant change); and I'll also write down the "why", if anyone's interested.

1. Indiscretion - gives a lot of dimension to Dukat, beautiful story (made me cry), a wonderful Dukat/Kira scene (the cave), Mark Alaimo and the girl who plays Ziyel were really great.
2. The Wire - a lot of Garak, shows the friendship between Bashir and Garak.
3. Duet - tragic and sad story with a message, great acting and characterisation.
4. Rejoined - see below; and wonderful love story.
5. Second Skin - great Kira story, and great acting.
6. The Visitor - very good story, made me cry (especially the ending).
7. Necessary Evil - very interesting glimpse of Terek Nor.

8. Cardassians - good story, very touching Garak.

9. The Forsaken - comedy turned into touching story, great!

10. Improbable Cause/The Die is Cast - even more Garak! And we finally learn something about his past.

To Bill McClure - I think you chose the DS9 quote very unfairly. I mean, we had similar sentences from people like Q in TNG - and Garak, of all people, should not necessarily be looked on as a role model (and neither should Q). I find plenty of stuff in DS9 episodes I would want to teach my children. Take a look at Rejoined (or Duet, or Hippocratic Oath, or...), for example, which I consider to be one of Star Trek's finest hours - I think it dealt with the gay issue really brilliantly, just by not addressing it at all - thereby this episode showed that in the 24th century the gay issue is no longer a problem; even more, that it is indeed totally accepted and that there is no longer discrimination, etc.

Oppressor-becomes-the-oppressed in the Narn/Centauri war!?! Are the Narn winning after all? (I'm still stuck in the second season as I write this, and at the moment the Narn are barely withstanding Centauri attacks.)

To Russell Witheyman - I totally agree with you, I too think that Gene's vision is still there (see my comments on Rejoined - I also think Parturition is a very sweet and peaceful tale). I don't agree with everything Berman & Piller have done, but I think they should be granted some freedom to move, the show would stagnate otherwise. ST needs change in order to stay interesting and up to date, so it may be very different now than it was 10 - or even 5 - years ago; but yes, I think that Gene's vision is still there; we just have to look for it sometimes.

To Sheila Clark - In The Trouble With Tribbles, K-7 was also referred to as Deep Space Station K-7.

To Edward Woo - sure, not all Solids want to kill Changelings, but if you look at history or at some of today's political events, people often just don't see the facts;

paranoia/xenophobia/religious differences etc outweighs the rational considerations in far too many cases (take that insane situation in ex-Yugoslavia, for example). So the Founders may just be so convinced of their right to hate the Solids that they're blind to the fact that the situation has changed and that not all Solids are the same. Or maybe they just don't want to see; remaining ignorant often proves to be far easier than changing your whole world view.

To Vered Gilad & Sandra Necchi - I really enjoyed your articles.

• Elaine Brown - Edinburgh

To Eagle Mirror re tribble genetics. If tribbles are born pregnant this implies that they are parthenogenic, ie they can give birth to offspring as a result of external stimulus, eg plentiful food supply, without any exchange of genetic material - "virgin birth" (cf Terran aphid). The young are in effect clones of their parent. That they are not suggests that coloration is also dependent on external stimuli. Since tribbles are a major prey species on their home world, according to Spock, and are very vulnerable because they are slow-moving, protective coloration would be a sensible evolutionary strategy. Since they apparently live amongst their food, it would be appropriate to be similarly coloured as the food source as camouflage. Perhaps you could experiment by feeding them on grain artificially coloured with harmless vegetable dyes? :-)

To everybody - Does anybody out there know anything about a story called Visit to a Weird Planet by Jean Lorrain and Willard F Hunt? It is mentioned in Star Trek: The New Voyages. I would love to read it, but have been unable to track it down. If anyone knows where I can find it, I would be grateful for the info. [Sheila - It was printed in Spockanalia No 3, in 1968 - the sequel, which is in New Voyages, was originally printed in Spockanalia No 5 in 1970. Although all five issues of Spockanalia were kept in print for a number of years, to the best of my knowledge they are now out of print. Incidentally, I never did understand why Marshak & Culbreath printed the sequel but not the original story!]

• **Adam J North - Norwich**

I have noticed that the postbag is becoming more and more negative with lots of bickering going on. This could be a reason for the drop in membership renewals.

I think it would be a good idea if letters could be edited for negative thoughts; after all IDIC is about what we love. People should not talk about what they dislike.

• **Antony Freelove - Berkhamstead**

You said you were cutting back on repetitive advertising to save space in the B/L, but are keeping the convention ads because they need the advertising. Well, not all people go to conventions, so why don't you consider advertising them through fact sheets? Each month you can produce or update a fact sheet. This can be sent to members with their newsletters (so no extra costs). Anyone who wants to receive convention information with their newsletters can write to IDIC saying so; so each month, members who want convention information will have a fact sheet in with their newsletters. If a member who doesn't receive convention information decides they want a fact sheet, they can just send in a SAE.

This will probably leave more room for the Postbag, news, etc, but would it be more of a hindrance? I personally think that removing the repetitive zine ads (and maybe the convention ones) will make the N/L more flowing. I would like to hear your opinion. *[Sheila - Quite frankly, it would make posting the newsletters an absolute headache. Keeping one lot of address labels separate for renewal forms is easy; adding flyers to all the envelopes is easy. Adding flyers to some but not all envelopes would be a nightmare. It would also add appreciably to printing costs, especially since flyers are subject to VAT - the actual newsletters aren't.]*

• **Alex Francis - Silverdale, Market Rd, Nantyglo, Brynmaur, Gwent NP3 4QD**

I haven't been a member of IDIC for very long, but I've noticed that since my first N/L (no 41) the letters have changed. First it was discussion, now it's all-out war! I would class myself as a fan of every incarnation of Trek,

but not everyone is. They have their individual favourites and they are entitled to their opinions, but I draw the line at people slagging off the opinions of others.

Classic Trek - "dull and boring"

TNG - "Wooden, with poor characterisation"

DS9 - Trying to emulate Babylon 5

Voyager - Weak plots and characters

It there's one thing being a fan of Trek has taught me, it's tolerance. So come on, guys, let's adapt some of this philosophy, please!

Letters have been criticising Rick Berman for "destroying Gene's universe" - so, as fans, we shouldn't be helping by quarrelling amongst ourselves!

And to all those who criticise TOS, remember one thing, Without TOS there would be no TNG, DS9 or Voyager. I mean, aren't we supposed to respect parents? Let's give TOS a little more respect!

To Christopher Howell - I agree with you. Star Trek, in whatever incarnation, is good entertainment!

If anyone would like to write to me, please do. I love writing and receiving letters.

• **Antje Rubenach - Germany**

With great concern I read your editorial in the latest N/L (45). Why is membership dropping? I can of course only speak for myself. I'm a fan of the original series for a very long time. For me, Star Trek is love for Spock (and Kirk and McCoy and the others), the spirit of CT, the spirit of the 60s, the wonderful movies (1 - 5), K/S zines, IDIC (the Vulcan one) - only to name some of the reasons why I'm in love with this universe. This universe is *complete* for me. I don't need TNG, DS9, Voyager, and I'm happy as long as find something in a N/L about "my" universe. But I've noticed for some time that the Zine Ads and the Small Ads are dropping - but these and the merchandise are one of the main reasons why I subscribe to IDIC! I know that the club is not responsible for the number of ads in a N/L (the members and zine editors are!) but with dropping zines and

private ads, the newsletter is less interesting, and now you will even print repetitive advertising on separate flyers! IRCs are *very* expensive and I don't pay DM 5 or 6 for them.

I wrote this only because you said you don't really know why membership is dropping.

Fewer ads > less information about CT > fans of DS9 and Voyager are probably much younger. They are fans today and tomorrow look for something new! In the "old times", with only CT, *we all had the same hobby*; with a newsletter, you reached all fans. Today there are 4 groups. It's difficult to reach all of them with one newsletter.

• **Chris Coxon - Winchelsea**

I must write in support of Dave Styles' article in N/L 44, entitled Why do we Squabble so Much? I know I haven't always seen eye to eye with Dave, but in this I am in wholehearted support. Having been fortunate enough to spend 2 weeks in the USA in February I must say that as a result of this trip, I think that we fans outside the USA are a hot harsher and most analytical on Trek than those in the USA. Trekdom appears all-pervasive in the USA; if you admit to anyone in the States, "I am a Trekker" it is more than likely the person you're talking to will say, "Oh, I am too!", quite straight-faced, no "anorak" stigma - it made me realise how self-critical - and let's be brutally frank, narrow-minded - fandom outside the USA appears to be.

I don't particularly care if I am a pawn of callous commercialism - I need my dose of all 3 genres of Trek each week - yes, all three - *no preferences* (for goodness' sake, we can all find good and bad in each and every format. Stop the politics and imposed opinions, snide wisecracks etc etc. Trek is too good to be hobbled by the "Mine's better than yours" merchants. Let's be like the Americans and accept all of it as exactly what it is meant to be - excellent science fiction entertainment.

Lastly - to anyone still waiting for photos of Generations London premiere and con - sorry, but I have had so much grief from

others that I am no longer offering the service. All monies outstanding will be refunded. My apologies to any who feel let down - please blame those who gave me so much grief I am no longer inclined to offer the service.

• **Anne-Marie Flowers - Glasgow**

To Bill McClure - Re Tattoo. I've only seen it once, but I thought the aliens visited Chakotay's ancestors precisely *because* they were the most intelligent and receptive beings on Earth at the time. It seemed to me that this episode was written by "immigrant" Americans as an appeasement to the "natives" and I entirely agree that it smacks of the nauseating political correctness of TNG shows like Outcast and Force of Nature.

To Pam Baddeley & Jay Stevensen re vanity publishing (thanks for your input, Sheila) - I still say zines are a form of VP in the sense that the works are not commercially viable. All you need is a PC and access to a photocopier, and there you have your zine. And don't forget those who publish on the Internet - if that's not VP, I don't know what is! What difference does it make, anyway? I have read plenty of good stories published by the author and plenty of rubbish which had been "screened" by an editor, although I will allow that the "edited" versions tended to have fewer spelling mistakes and grammatical errors.

To Kathleen Glancy - I agree that racism and sexism are instincts. Religious prejudice is certainly more of a learned fear but not necessarily illogical. After all, people organise themselves into different groups because they wish to live in a certain way. Others who live by a different set of rules *are* likely to be a threat. I once heard an eminent rabbi speaking of the state of Judaism in the USA. He said more Jews had been lost to sectarianism than had died in the holocaust, and what was interesting was that he lamented the losses with equal intensity.

To James O Donovan - A couple of points on Spock's DNA. First, excepting identical siblings and clones, no two people of even the same race share the same DNA, let alone two humanoids of different species.

Secondly, Romulan and Vulcan DNA is not the same, otherwise Dr Selar would have been a suitable donor for the injured Romulan in The Enemy instead of Worf. Thirdly, even if Romulans and Vulcans had similar DNA, Spock is half-Human and could easily have been picked out. I rest my case.

To Vered Gilad re relationships. I agree TOS does well on male bonding but when it comes to (potential) romance, TNG beats it hands down. As far as I can see, the "big 3" didn't meet till they were all posted to the Enterprise, whereas I love the back stories in TNG - the Riker/Troi Imzadi thing, the Picard/Jack/Beverly triangle and the mysterious Picard/Guinan relationship. We may not see much interaction on screen, but the undercurrents are there and they're a great source of inspiration for writers, both amateur and professional.

• **Valerie Herd - Canada**

To Kathleen Glancy - I get your point, but agree with the comment about writers being motivated to share their visions. Obviously, in order to make money, writers must write about subjects which will guarantee them some sort of payment, if not enough for a 'living'. However, the 60s was a turbulent decade that many creative people wanted to make a personal statement about: hence the folk songs, poetry, art, photography, fiction etc that sprang up during that time. Not all of those people were trying to create something that would make money; they were simply sharing their vision of the times and what they felt the future would or should hold. Star Trek offered writers the rare opportunity to make a statement about issues they felt strongly about while at the same time getting paid for airing their views in story form. I feel many of Star Trek's best stories came from the heart, and not from the burning need to pay the electricity bill!

To Meg Lahey - Hello! I agree about Harlan Ellison being a curmudgeon. As you probably know, his original script for The City of the Edge of Forever won him the Writers' Guild of America Award for the most outstanding dramatic episode teleplay for 1967-68, and the rewritten one, which people still associate with him, won the 1968

Hugo Science Fiction Award; not bad for one episode of a 60s TV series, and - *lucky him!* If he thinks we Trekkers are nuts - well, *he's* the one who has been bearing a grudge for 30 years! I agree with Alan Stephen that Ellison isn't "a nut" but I think his new book indicates he has a pillock mentality where Trek is concerned; and he might at least have written his nasty book while Gene was still alive, instead of waiting till the man was dead and safely out of the way before letting loose.

To Neil Safi - You know those little lint brushes with the red velcro? Well, that same red velcro substance is on the bottom of all shipboard Starfleet boots - keeps the carpets sparkling and free of loose tribble hair... :-)

To Brenda Allan - I agree with you about DS9. I remember when DS9 was about to be first aired, creators Berman & Piller said that they'd studied some of the most successful episodes of "classic" Trek, all of which were set on the Enterprise herself. These were "people" stories, and seeing how well those stories worked, they felt that a series focusing on life aboard a space station would also work. You're right, DS9 isn't as fast-paced as TNG, but the characters have a lot of chemistry, and there isn't that technobabble overload that TNG burned out our brains with!

To Vered Gilad - Good point about Odo! He seemed to do a lot more shapeshifting stunts during the first season - maybe he's spent so much time among humanoids he's beginning to think like one!

To Floranna Limonci - The phrase "ST is only ST if Kirk and Co are involved" can be explained in a couple of ways. To me, the words "Star Trek" mean the original series, and that's what I think about when I see or hear those words. Before TNG came along, that was how it was for all Trek fans. Suddenly there was TNG, and with it also being referred to by the media as "Star Trek", this resulted in some confusion. Things are now even more confusing, with four series being referred to as Star Trek! TNG, DS9 and Voyager are all set in Gene's Star Trek universe, so naturally have "Star Trek":

included as part of their series title; but it would be far less confusing if the studio and media would refer to each one by its own individual name.

It's always nice to find an article on the original series, which has been pretty much ignored of late, and it's aggravating to spend a fortune on an expensive SF magazine with advertises "Star Trek" on the front cover to discover the article is on one of the newer series, which have (with the exception of DS9) had quite extensive press cover. I like all four series, but have a special attachment to the original, and as I missed most of the early interviews and articles during the series first-run, I like to read whatever I can find on it nowadays.

I am pleased to see so many people coming forward to say that they're fans of the original Star Trek - count me in! I'm sorry to see such a change in Trek fandom; perhaps it may partly be due to the fact that in the "old days" meeting a fellow fan meant the start of an interesting conversation where we'd compare notes; with the arrival of the newer Trek series came the tendency for the conversations to screech to an uncomfortable halt something like this: "Oh, now, I don't like *that* one! You don't like *that* one, do you? It's *rubbish!*" It gets a bit tiresome having to defend the series we prefer over the others, and many people have just backed away from fandom altogether, which is sad. I agree with Sandra Necchi: some of us prefer CT, some TNG, some DS9 and some Voyager - we can discuss our preferences at length in a mature way, rather than being abusive or by intimidating others into silence. The only way we can come anywhere near to the peaceable future Gene envisioned is by learning to get along - but that's obvious, isn't it?!

• James Woodman - Le Relais Des Garrigues, Route de Fronton, 82170 Grisolles, France

In the DS9 episode Starship Down, Chief O'Brien tells Worf that the engineers did not go to Starfleet Academy so he should not push them too hard. Why would Starfleet not put on board engineers who have had Academy experience? I wonder if they can

get promoted? Maybe Chief O'Brien was like that before being granted a commission of Chief. I wonder if they get staff accommodation and the same pay?

When Voyager arrives in the Borg sector, why don't they use the same transwarp contact once they find the Borg? The Borg would most probably ignore the ship as it is only one ship, not the civilisation.

I hope that William Shatner stops writing ST and sticks to Tek. I have read the introduction to *The Return* - it is completely illogical. Why would the Borg use a Starfleet Captain with no knowledge of the quadrant for nearly 74 years? Also the Borg are working with the Romulans - the Borg would not need to use the Romulans, they would just assimilate the Romulan culture! If someone has read the complete book, then please respond!

Last Sunday, I watched my first TOS episode. The music gave me a headache. Where were Chekov, Sulu and Scotty? The episode was *The Alternate Factor* - I hope there are better episodes than that! *[Sheila - Yes, there are. That wasn't one of the better TOS episodes.]*

I run a local fanzine, which is free. We are going to run a competition where ST fans send in their stories (the first couple of pages!) and the winners will have their stories published on a small scale. If you want to enter, then just send it in with an IRC - or an IRC simply to receive the fanzine.

Could somebody please tell me what mug is used on DS9 - the ones they have in F***** Planet were with Starfleet, Ferengi, Klingon and 1701-D insignias on them! Please help!

I am looking for Star Trek fans in France. If you are reading, *please write in!*

• Russell Murdoch - Glasgow

Has anyone else noticed that CIC Video are regularly issuing new Star Trek TV episodes in edited forms, but expect people who like the later series to shell out more money than ever before? Without wishing to

denigrate the original series (I was once a TOS fan myself), if fans of that show can get access to uncensored and undiluted episodes, why isn't it the same for TNG/DS9/Voyager Trekkers?

To change the mood, I would like to add my good wishes to the praise that has been heaped on DS9's *The Visitor*. It was the show's best episode so far in a series that gets more consistently interesting and enjoyable every year - it was almost as moving as *The Inner Light*. I hope that it augurs well for the future. Indeed, I think it would be nominated for a Hugo award.

• **Bianca ter Morsche - Nyreesmiddenweg 19, 7609 PE Almelo, The Netherlands**

To Ben McLelland - Re Star Trek song. I think you mean the song *Star Trekkin'* by The Firm. I believe that this song has only been released on single, so if you would like to get hold of it, you should go to a record shop where they still sell old singles.

Can anyone tell me if Bajorans have telepathic abilities?

Does anyone know what Gul Dukat's first name is? I know that Garak's first name is Elim and that Tain's is Enabran, but what is Dukat's? Does anyone know?

Is there someone living near Leeds who can tell me where I can find shops which sell Star Trek merchandise? I am planning to go to Leeds for a holiday this summer, and it would be nice to bring some things home with me. There are not many things to find about Star Trek in the area where I live, so I hope to nose about in every shop which sells ST merchandise when I am in Leeds! *[Sheila - If you can help Bianca, please write her direct, as the next N/L isn't out till August, and a reply in it might be too late to help her.]*

• **T Mara and the Prosbear - Vienna**

To Vered Gilad - I take it "most interesting letter" was meant as a compliment? In that case, the bear and I thank you.

To Dave Styles - I am glad you like

Tuvok. But aren't you going a bit too far by saying that Spock appears un-Vulcan compared to Tuvok? You can't expect them to be exactly the same, each of them has his own individuality and his own strengths. Then there is also the fact that Spock is half Vulcan and Tuvok is full Vulcan. I think both of them are very convincing, probably because they are different despite the basic similarities among the Vulcan people.

To Christopher Howell - As to Way Of The Warrior, since the Founders pose such a big threat, what would be the logical (and therefore Vulcan) thing to do? Start a war with your long-term ally and another people with whom your ally had a peace treaty? Or would it not be better (and more honourable) to stand with your friends, form a large alliance (that is, start negotiations on a treaty with Cardassia too, maybe even contact the Romulans and ask them to join) and be prepared when the Founders attack? In WOTW the Klingons attack DS9 even *after* Sisko has assured them that the Cardassian government is not infiltrated by Founders, that they all have passed the blood-screening. In my opinion this is neither reasonable nor honourable. Now that the Klingons are more or less at war with the Federation and Cardassia, the Dominion will find even less resistance when (and if) they decide to take over the Alpha Quadrant.

• **David J Raper - Hull**

On the subject of Odo's relatives, I agree with Baerbel Schmidt that until the Founders learn to forgive, they will always be victims of their own fears. It's a big universe and no matter how big the Dominion grows, it will never be *that* big. As long as the Founders continue to view all "Solids" as hostile, they will never be short of enemies and even with the Jem'hadar it is inevitable that some day they will encounter one enemy too many.

Next: is there any truth in the rumour that H R Geiger is redesigning the Borg for TNG II? If so I would advise parents with easily frightened children to stay away. Having once looked through a book of the man's work, I can assure you that "disturbing" is too mild a description - this is the man who designed the Alien, after all, life

but not as Star Trek knows it, which is probably just as well. When it comes to favourite aliens, I have a definite Klingon bias.

As to the 1701-E. I look forward to seeing it, though Paramount will doubtless do their best to keep it "under wraps" until they are ready, I think it will be something new, rather than another galaxy class with go-faster-stripes, but I am one of the many who'll miss 1701-D, however gallant her end in a noble cause.

And finally Voyager. Having seen some season 2 episodes, I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that Janeway is going to have to do something about the Kazon and fast. Not only do they keep pursuing Voyager and trying to steal its technology, even without Seska's encouragement, but they are now spreading false rumours about the Voyager (Dreadnought), though I doubt if anyone familiar with the Kazon would believe them without reservations; but there are a lot of people in the Delta Quadrant who do not know the Voyager, and with Kazon neighbours they would be understandably suspicious of strangers.

As to what Janeway might actually do or what she could do, I am open to suggestions. From what we have seen of the Kazon so far, they are aggressive, greedy, vicious and untrustworthy - at least their leaders are - which does present quite a problem if you are not prepared to go to war with them. Force does seem to be the only thing that the Kazon truly respect, though that is hardly in keeping with Federation policy - which does present Janeway and the writers with something of a problem. If the worst comes to the worst, I suppose that B'Elanna could build a cloak - she probably knows how to and I don't doubt that she could do it and probably has a set of blueprints discreetly stashed away, just in case. It would hardly be breaking any treaties, since B'Elanna is a former Maquis and half-Klingon, recreating Klingon technology and what the Romulans don't know, they can't complain about.

• **Marie I J Raper - Hull**

Firstly to Bill McClure re Home Front/

Paradise Lost - This episode concerned the fear of a planetary invasion by the Changelings as opposed to their actual presence of the planet. Although Admiral Leyton had summoned Captain Sisko and Odo to Earth to aid Starfleet Security against a possible invasion, it was still through the actions of a single Changeling. It is worth remembering that the "O'Brien" Changeling admitted to Sisko in Paradise Lost that there were, in fact, only *four* of them on the entire planet. Leyton had used this genuine fear of an invasion for his own agenda, which was an attempt at a military takeover.

To Floranna Limonci - I think that your remarks concerning Star Trek make a lot of sense. I don't think there is *anything* wrong with enjoying Trek in all forms as opposed to which series is the best/worst. I don't think CT should be compared with TNG or DS9 or Voyager, as all four formats are completely different in one way or another.

To Martin Stahl - Re Seska. I'd take anything she has to say with a big pinch of salt. On the one hand, in the episode Maneuvers, Seska informs Chakotay that she is pregnant with his child; on the other hand, in Alliances she tells Maje Culluh that she is carrying *his* child. I think that it is more likely that she is pregnant by Culluh, since there was already something of a maternal bulge showing. It looks like Seska is doing little more than to use her unborn child as a stick to beat both Culluh *and* Chakotay with.

To Stephen Daniels - I doubt that Riker had intended to actually *land* the saucer section on the surface of Veridian III. I think that it's more likely that he'd intended to have the saucer section orbiting the planet, and your suggestion of having it head for open space makes a lot of sense. Unfortunately, when the stardrive section exploded, the saucer section was caught in the aftershock and pushed towards the planet, which left the Enterprise crew little choice but to land and hope for the best. Having said that, it does not alter the fact that only a handful of the Enterprise's 1014 crew actually perished.

And finally, to Michael Flett on a similar vein - It looks like you and I are going to

have to agree to differ concerning the battle scene in *Generations*. I think that it's fairly obvious that neither of us is going to convince the other; I could give you a hundred reasons for justifying my viewpoint and you would do the same, and I doubt if either of us would agree on very much, so I am going to offer a graceful surrender and respect your viewpoint and stick to my own and leave it at that.

• **Michael Flett - Edinburgh**

To Alan Jones - How can you complain about IDIC carrying flyers for merchandise in a letter urging fans to be more circumspect in their buying? I am quite able to make a judgement, as I suspect most IDIC members can (by being members we've already demonstrated our discernment and good taste). Although IDIC do not charge, as stated last N/L - to quote Lwaxana, Why the hell not? If they're going to do their best to scam us, we might as well scam them right back - it's going to a better place in the long run.

To Bill McClure - Yes, G'Kar and Shakaar are phonetically similar, but we have known Kira was in the Shakaar resistance cell since Duet in the first season. Closer is Sha Ka Ree (Final Frontier) and the Vulcan capital ShiKahr.

To Dave Styles - No, December rip-off of the month may have been the seven-movie box, but in January it was the widescreen *Generations* - an extra fiver for the privilege of having it in a glittery box with a leaflet that tells you absolutely nothing you didn't know already. February would be increasing DS9 to £12.99 recommended retail price - Playhouse (if you have one) discount to £10.99 week of release only, otherwise same as John Menzies (£11.99). *Don't* buy from supermarkets if you can avoid it - it was the supermarket chains using video as a market share loss-leader that screwed the video market in the first place, leading to the price hike. (Oh, and CIC are greedy, too.) And since they have put flyers in all the new Trek videos advertising release dates, wouldn't it be nice if they would stick to them? Actually, in the long run I'm not bothered - one tape of each is more affordable.

To Neil Safi - There must be a Starfleet cleaner corps - where else would Wesley have found a mop in Farpoint? And remembering Deanna just abandoning her flask of juice in the hallway in *Liaisons*? That always irritated me. Actually, it's been a long time since I saw Search for Spock, but I'm sure I remember a cleaner in the lounge during the stealing of the *Enterprise*.

To Sandra Necchi - The costume is the most definable, obvious change in Kira, but it has been happening since the middle of the second season - I think it was Sanctuary, when she had her "Well, I didn't choose to live with the Cardassians, but I did it for thirty years until the liberation came" speech. The first time I saw that episode I thought, *Why is she saying this?* A year ago Kira would have shouted *this* - and didn't Sisko look better when Kira contrasted him? And what about her hair - it used to be red, now I don't know what it's supposed to be. I love DS9, and I love it because it is different - it may fall on its face sometimes, but it is the only Trek that has ever dared to break the formula, and when it works, it is all the stronger for it. I liked it the way it was, not the new audience-friendly way. If you want safe, happy and bland, watch *Voyager* - ooh, scathing supergeneralisation! ;-)

To Christopher Howell - What would the Vulcans' recommendation on the Founders be? "We sent messengers to our enemies to talk of peace. Many were killed, so we sent more, and then more after that. Eventually our enemies listened." I can't do it word for word and I don't have the tape to hand, but it's Surak in *The Savage Curtain* - I think you get the idea.

To Helen White - Don't worry, they only took a tooth out, not your wisdom or wit, I'm sure. But still - I don't speak computer - explain *Format C*, please.

To anyone - Why, in *Way of the Warrior*, since everybody seems to love it so much, did Gowron say to Worf, "I have always considered you a friend"? Perhaps this is some strange definition of the word 'friend' of which I previously hadn't been aware?

In *Generations*, what was Guinan doing on the *Lakul*? It has been implied that her family was wealthy, in that she was able to tour the galaxy at her leisure, visiting 19th century Earth as she did so, and we know she wasn't on her homeworld when the Borg attacked, so what was she doing with a shipload of refugees? Missionary work? Also, considering how fast the Borg can travel and the range of their ships, how did the El-Aurians arrive in our space before the Borg? Do they just assimilate a sector at a time, and

sit on it for a few decades? If anyone escapes, do they just let them go to warn the rest of the quadrant? Not that the El-Aurians bothered to tell anybody - what exactly did they put on their petition for asylum in the Federation? Natural disaster? Virulent plague contracted from an unsanitary telephone? Or did they tell the truth, and did *Starfleet* carefully lose the information in their own X-files for the next seventy years? The truth will out.



Generations II (or I, really, in my case)

a report by Helen White

I wasn't going to go to *Generations*, but when one of your friends rings you and says that Leonard Nimoy will be there, along with Jimmy, Walter and George, and Bill, well, I went!

I was obliged to catch a train at 6.43 am, ugh, as it was a Bank Holiday. Oh well, I arrived with time to walk across Hyde Park and still be at the Royal Albert Hall in time to freeze to death outside the ticket office for an hour....

I had been warned that the Dealers Room would get busy, so I decided to go there first. After climbing approximately 400 staircases I arrived at the 'room' which was actually set up on the highest level gallery, puff pant fall over. Most of the items there were exceedingly expensive, but I got a few bits and bobs. I then set off round the one-way loop that had been set up to avoid congestion, and thus ended up back at the same point again, about to expire from lack of oxygen, oops.

I eventually found my way out of the loop and located my seat, which had a superb view of both the stage and the rest of the hall. I was very surprised to find that the hall was only about two-thirds full - I guess some people who came last year decided that *Generations* wasn't their style.

The compere (the chap who owns Pages bar in London) appeared and announced that LN wasn't here; he'd been due in on the

previous day's 5pm *Concorde*, after which he was going to have flown back on today's 5pm *Concorde*, as he had a play opening on Broadway, BUT, British Airways had very kindly cancelled yesterday's flight. Scream!

After a mega-amazing lightshow, an auction was held for Bill (Shatner's) autograph, in the 'sit down when the price goes over your range' style. The price started at £5 and rose to £80, at which point those still standing were called to the stage. The price then continued to rise until there were approximately 30 people left, all of whom were willing to pay £180, erk. They were then led off stage and given the secret instructions on how to obtain said autographs.

That having been sorted out, the show began. First Jimmy Doohan came on, followed a short time later by Walter and then George. They did a short made-up-on-the-spot dialogue, in character, which had everyone shrieking with laughter. All three were looking in very good shape, although Jimmy seems to be a touch deaf these days and George needs specs (aside: *why* do Japanese (and apparently Japanese-American also) people always wear little round spectacles? Is it something in their genetic makeup?)


After a very entertaining session, there was a short break, then Wil Wheaton came on. I wasn't sure what to expect, but he came across as a very intelligent and articulate

young man (oh help, I sound like my grandma!)

Following dindins were Ethan Phillips and Jennifer Lien, who came on stage together. You could tell that they're new to all this kind of thing; they were clearly nervous (Ethan paced up and down until I felt like screaming!) but they were very entertaining speakers and settled down as time went on. They were asked plenty of questions, including one which was asked in a Birmingham accent and which Ethan needed translating! They told us that Tim Russ does what Leonard Nimoy used to do - when filming is on, he goes into his 'Vulcan bag'. They also gave me my biggest laugh of the day when someone asked what Ethan thought would happen if Neelix was made Captain. He said that he thought Chakotay would look good in a chef's hat, and that he'd make Tuvok morale officer!

After Larry and Janet Nemecek, whom I didn't watch (I needed a break from sitting there all day like that) it was time for Bill to come on stage. He spent a long time being flashed at (cameras, thank you very much)

and then people settled down. I had never seen Bill 'live' before, and I was impressed. He chatted about STV and admitted that there had been several errors on his part - mainly to do with being a first-time director, but certainly not helped by 'dear' Paramount deciding to cut the budget either. He is very Kirkian, which I suppose you'd expect, although he wouldn't do any lines for a questioner, which I thought was grotty of him - he said he didn't want to 'mock' the character. Beg pardon?! I don't think that saying 'Analysis please, Mr Spock or similar would do that. Oh well. He told the famous bicycle story, which got plenty of laughs, and answered several questions.

I wasn't sure what to expect from Generations, but I really enjoyed myself. It's really nothing like a 'proper' convention; the actors etc. are too far away to see without the aid of the big video screens provided, and you don't get that lovely friendly atmosphere, but it was fun to see so many of the various casts all in one day. I'd definitely go again, provided they had as many actors in one day and provided they were all ones that I wanted to see! 

He's On The Telly Again

or

Generations II - The Party

An article from Dave Styles

You may remember an excellent TV show (modesty!) about a year ago when I appeared fleetingly on the screen as a Klingon...

For some time I'd fancied going to "Generations - The Party"; a party to accompany the "Generations II" convention at the Royal Albert Hall. This event was billed as THE 30th birthday party for Star Trek in the UK and was to be held at the Hammersmith Palais, attendance was strictly by ticket only, tickets being limited to 1,500, all of which had sold months in advance of the event. Oh, well. I resigned myself to missing it...

A week before this bash was to take place I had a phone call from the friend who did

my make-up for my TV appearance on "Takeover TV". She had been approached by the Sci-Fi channel. These people were going to be filming at "Generations - The Party", and they wanted my make-up expert pal to come up to the Hammersmith Palais on the afternoon of the event so that she could be filmed performing her make-up marvels. Oh, and could she bring along some volunteers to be made up?

I jumped at the chance! The party I wanted to go to! Free! As a guest of the television people!

So on the afternoon of April 6, along with a reasonable proportion of our local Trek group, I turned up in Hammersmith. We

immediately met up with the TV people who were great. We were all interviewed on film "as we were", given a suite of dressing rooms in which we were filmed being changed into aliens, and filmed again once the alien transformation was complete. During this time the TV people were constantly worrying about our well-being, with seemingly endless supplies of tea, coffee, sweets, doughnuts and pizza at hand.

At one point there was an "alien parade" filmed, in which various aliens came down a staircase, posed for the cameras, and then would flounce off. One of the TV chaps fancied having a go himself in Starfleet uniform, and we soon sorted him out with a yellow top and a pair of black trousers. My trousers! Now at this point I began to wonder. Having decided to be a Bolian for the day, and having been the first to be made up, I found myself standing in the middle of Hammersmith Palais, head shaved and painted blue, with no trousers. Were these people actually filming an episode of "Beadle's About?" I started to get quite anxious.

Fortunately my trousers soon returned, and the final filming was of all the aliens together. If I do say so myself, we were impressive. There were Ferengi, Klingon, Bajorans, Cardassians, Andorians, Morn (from DS9), and Bolians. We filmed a couple of "advertising shots" that the Sci-Fi channel would use for linking programs (perhaps by now you've seen them?), and then sat back and waited for the party to begin.

However I think I can sum up the party best by saying that the only good thing about it was that I had been given free admission.

Have you ever been to Hammersmith Palais? Briefly it can be described as a seriously enormous disco with a rather small balcony around the dance floor. Now having been led to believe that the whole place had been booked for the Star Trek party it came as something of a shock to find that in fact it was the small balcony that had been reserved for the Star Trek party; the Palais was in fact open for business like any other night. Before long the general public massively

outnumbered the Trek fans, who were retreating in droves from the dance floor to the increasingly crowded balcony area.

The promotional bumf for the evening had advertised celebrity guests. They were there, but locked away in a separate area. Walter Koenig did appear for ten minutes, and I saw Avery Brooks and George Takei go to the executive washroom, but frankly I had hoped for something more of an appearance. Then it was announced that the stars of Star Trek would be on stage soon. At last ... What a let down! They came on stage, walked from left to right, and walked off again. James Doohan stopped to shake hands with a few people, but they weren't there for long. I wouldn't say that if you blinked you would have missed it, but a friend who nipped to the toilet missed it all. I think that a fair estimate of the duration of the stage appearance would have been about three minutes.

Trek events had been promised for the evening, fancy dress shows had been advertised... none actually occurred. OK, so I met and laughed with friends old and new, but I couldn't get rid of the sense of having been let down. This air of disappointment seemed universal among the Trekkers there. At least in a sense I was lucky, I'd got in for free and only had an a couple of hours journey home. I'd met up with people who'd paid and travelled from Yorkshire, Wales, the West Country, who were bitterly disappointed with the whole thing.

By the time 11pm came, I'd had enough. Setting off for home we had to force our way through the swarms of general public still being admitted to what had been billed as a "Star Trek - by ticket only" event.

So in conclusion what can I say ? I did have a very good day out; a free day out at that. But...

I've read in previous IDIC newsletters that professionally organised Trek events can be a rip-off. I've been to fan-organised events before that have been fun. This professionally organised event was a get-rich-quick scheme for the organisers. It seems to me that the

word "con" can be an abbreviation for Convention or for Confidence Trick. Perhaps

we should start to distinguish between the two.



UNIFICATION II

reported by Glen Parsons

Unification 2 - the first convention I've attended, and what a great experience!

Richard has an unending enthusiasm for Trek in all its forms.

Arrived on the Thursday (yes, I know it was a day early, but I didn't want to miss anything), had a quiet drink and retired to await the opening.

The evening disco was possibly the most fun of the whole weekend, everyone joining in made a great party (I didn't even mind them playing that awful Star Trekkin song). An evening of drink, dancing and drink - great!

Not knowing anyone, I spent the afternoon watching videos. Later we had the opening ceremony, where the guests were introduced. The guests this year were Tim Gaskill, Richard Arnold and the lovely Chase Masterson. The evening was spent in the bar meeting people and generally chatting. It was a nice surprise to find Chase and Richard joining everyone in the bar and being very friendly.

The Sunday morning seemed quite subdued - at least, I was. Again, I caught a couple of videos, mostly forthcoming DS9. This series is looking as if it may become as popular as TNG, although I enjoyed the early episodes and thought the series had its own identity. The changes will add a lot of excitement to the series, but I am not sure it needed it. Maybe the series should have been left to develop on its own.

The Saturday I started by getting in some early morning videos of Voyager (still loving this series). Then in the afternoon was the charity auction, with some nice items available. Bidding was a bit slow, but Richard Arnold who is obviously a veteran of these things kept things going.

Anyway, the Sunday progressed with talks again by the three guests. I'm afraid I only heard Chase's talk; the afternoon was spent in the dealers' room and chatting with other attendees.

Chase Masterson turned out to be a very popular and welcome guest. Her guest talk was relaxed, informative and fun (I'm sure other members will recite the exact content of the talk). Needless to say I thoroughly enjoyed it and was pleasantly surprised by the interesting nature of the questions from the audience.

The Sunday evening was disco time again, more drinking, more dancing, and later goodbyes all round. Then the worst part of the whole weekend - a ten-hour coach journey home on the Monday, but even that could not dim my enthusiasm.

I missed most of Tim Gaskill's talk - the little I did catch (last 10/15 minutes) seemed to be quite good - again I hope others will elaborate as it would be unfair to try an comment on the little I saw.

So I successfully survived my first convention, made new friends and loved every minute of it. This is definitely not my last convention.

Richard Arnold (the Trek expert) gave a lively informative talk. There was a nice slide show of photos from the set of DS9 and sneak previews of future episodes, then we finished with a Q & A session. It seems as though

I understand that by most standards this was quite a small convention. I was told about 250 people, although it seemed more to me - but that was probably a plus as it meant I got to meet plenty of people and spend time talking with the guests, which was great.



WARP TWO GUEST TALK - NANA VISITOR

reported by Jean Sloan

Nana is unpretentious, straightforward, honest and cheerful. She was born to the theatre; her father was a choreographer on Broadway, her mother a dance teacher. She grew up sitting in darkened theatres. She rejected a place at Princeton in favour of a role in the chorus line. As acting was what she always wanted to do, she danced to make money to fund her acting career, eventually moving to California.

She had just given birth to Buster, her four-year-old son, when she was sent a script. It was a very rich part so she accepted the audition, not connecting the show DS9 with Star Trek. She was out of shape after giving birth; she bought a green dress and a pair of Doc Martens then went into Kira mode - approaching the audition that way. When she had finished reading she walked out and slammed the door. The faces of the 'suits' were shocked; someone asked, "Could you abuse Paramount like that?" and she got the part. Later she found out what ST means - getting to meet people and going to places that you would never have gone to.

Nana is now pregnant with her second child, a boy, due in September. His father is Siddig El Fadil - or Alexander Siddig as we should call him now. Nana brought Sid to the con. They are searching for a name for the baby. Nana was rather fancying Clwyd until a member of the audience put her off by pointing out that it is a county. The whole business of her relationship with Sid and her pregnancy has been very much in the public eye, but she seems unfazed by that; as does he. She doesn't find media attention a problem: "I never pretend I am anything other than who I am". She and Sid got together shortly before *Our Man Bashir* (a James Bond spoof) was filmed.

Nana enjoys working on DS9 because of the chemistry between the members of the cast. She attributes this to the fact that they all come from a stage background, and that they are all very different. Avery is very intense. He sings jazz all the time, and from

him Nana always learns something historical as he is a professor and cannot help teaching. Terry is a laugh. She loves working with Rene - they gel well and it is always "very satisfying stuff". She doesn't think Odo and Kira will get together. With Sid she is always having "some kind of strange discussion, very complicated, usually involving outer space". She recognises Kira in herself - her fierceness and temper; she is not concerned about being typecast; rather she thinks it wonderful that playing Kira might stop her being considered for "some bimbo role".

They have had four different hairdressers on DS9, and they come with their own style which is why Kira's hair has been changed so often. At one point she begged to be shaved bald so that there would be no further problem. She did not enjoy playing Kira the Cardassian; she is claustrophobic and Cardassian make-up takes 5 hours... "The Ferengi and Odo, I take my hat off to them..." She did not request the new uniform, Paramount thought it would make her more palatable to a non-ST audience. She neither likes nor dislikes the outfit - "It doesn't compromise Kira; Kira doesn't care what she wears..."

Everything about Kira has made her think, for example about spirituality. Most of her episodes have been challenging - Kira's always on edge, always has an opinion. Initially she thought the relationship with Bareil had possibilities, but the actor wasn't happy in the show. She gets very caught up in Kira: Marc Alaimo must think she hates him. He is always in makeup when she sees him and she doesn't treat him very well. She is the same with Louise Fletcher when she is make up as Kai Winn - even though Louise is a lovely person. When Michael Dorn transferred onto DS9 the cast was apprehensive about the implications. Nana saw Worf and Kira as similar and thought there might be a danger of either her character or Worf's being undermined, but it hasn't happened. Worf would not like Kira because she is a freedom fighter, Michael

said.

Her favourite episode is Duet and Jim Conway who directed it is her favourite director. She enjoys being directed by fellow cast members and she recognises the hard work involved in directing. She has no ambitions in that direction herself: "I haven't the brain".


She looks forward to the possible return of Tom Riker - Jonathan is "a sweet man - hysterically funny". She is interested in the way the producers plan to handle her pregnancy. Kira, Bashir and Keiko are on a shuttle, Keiko is pregnant but something goes wrong and Bashir transplants the foetus into Kira. (Jean's comment - I hope I got that right - there was a lot of noise near me when I was taking notes at this point; you can see why I doubt the accuracy...)

Nana had several anecdotes to tell. In relation to practical jokes, the cast is "very dull". Nana knew that other series were given to on-set jokes so she took it upon herself to introduce the concept to DS9. Now Avery Brooks is a very imposing person - "You don't mess with him". Nana got an exploding pen - "very juvenile, I know" and passed a picture for him to sign "that happens all the time". They were on the promenade and Avery crossed to the bar to lean the picture on it. Suddenly everyone

disappeared and Nana was left alone - the obvious culprit. Avery really jumped although he denied it. He "took that long slow walk back to me" and told her that she would get paid back... and she would have to wait in anticipation of when and how. There have been no more practical jokes... "Kinda sad, isn't it?"

Once, coming out of her trailer, Nana slipped and fell heavily. She was in make-up and jeans. She was taken off to a clinic to be checked over and was seen by an officious young doctor whose first words were, "Oh my God, what did you do to your nose?" The story went right round the set.

Nana finds it really odd to see herself as an action doll... "so bizarre, it's an effigy, so weird". The first time she brought one home she showed it to Buster who was just learning to say "Momma". She handed the doll to Buster, who obligingly addressed it as "Momma"; he then gave it to their alsatian who tore the doll's head off.

The cast of DS9 mix socially off set. Sid and Colm go drinking - she used to join them and try to be one of the boys. When asked if it will be wedding bells for her and Sid, she declined to answer directly: "To tell you the truth, this is all so public so we'll keep it to ourselves. It'll happen at some point but we're keeping it private." 

Whither Conventions?

by Jacqueline Comben

First, let me say that Warp 2 was a very good Con with excellent guests which I thoroughly enjoyed despite commuting 140 miles each day. Also, I apologise for my abrupt departure from the panel of a Panel Discussion due to the fact that my six hours in the car park were about to run out, increasing the fee from £4.50 to £6! I hope the discussion continued for many happy hours without me, and am sure it did!

That said, the Business Meeting at Warp 2 was..... unusual. Scheduled in an alternative programme room during one of Walter

Koenig's talks - (quite legally - as the Committee knew I would, I checked the Rules) - it was clear that only a smattering of fanatical 'Business Meeting attendees' would turn up. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were not included with the Con Book and Programme, but had to be hunted down in an obscure corner of the Reg. Desk. Clearly 'something was up'!

It transpired that David and his Committee were protesting. They were on schedule to break even until Wolf 359 suddenly announced that their Con with a

major Trek guest was to be held in June.

"The Business Meeting is a farce!" David proclaimed. "There is no security. Anyone can arrange a competing event and the Committee that has gone to all the time and effort to Bid and to win a Bid can do nothing. Warp 2 will make a loss, putting the Committee seriously (about £5,000 each) out of pocket."

No Committee bid for May 1998. Perhaps David's committee had intended to do so. Who can tell? Who can blame them for deciding against?

I do have reservations about his argument. There were about 2,200 attendees at Warp 2. It is true that many were Day Registrations at £17.50 or £10, but that is always true. How many Full Registrations did he need? 2,500? Was he hoping for more than was reasonable? Is there any proof that 500 people will attend Wolf 359 who would otherwise have gone to Warp 2? How many of my compatriots went to Warp 2 and would not dream of travelling further, or had never before heard about Cons? How many would have attended if the publicity had been better? (There was nothing in newspapers in West, Mid or North Wales).

My feeling is that 'not proven' is the fairest verdict. CIA is a very expensive venue. The main Hotel room rates were very high and a lot of folk do not like being away from the action.

However, no one bid for May 1998.

There are probably now too many Cons all over the country for any one to be able to attract the numbers needed to pay for 3 major and 2 fairly major guests. (Lolita and Eric seemed pretty 'major' to me!). Has the Bidding System broken down for all time - or at least until a lot of committees are bankrupted and Cons cancelled? The caucus seems of limited value.

Fans: Cons do not just happen. Committees - fans like you - amateurs like you - work themselves silly to arrange and put them on. The Warp 2 Committee put on an excellent Con. Is it to be the last of such quality? To avoid this, other Committees should refrain from organising an event in the period April-June, to allow the major May Con a reasonable chance of attracting the numbers it needs to break even. So perhaps fans should boycott any Con which is organised to compete with the May Con? Remember, if there are any profits, they go to the Charity. Sick children will benefit from the Charity Auction, Raffle and sale of Ty Hafan badges at Warp 2, but they would have done better had the Con made a profit. I know that Cancer Research gained a lot from Warp 1.

I do not know the answer to the problem. All I can do is ask, "Where do we go from here?"



RELATIONSHIP II

by Jean Perrin

I have said several times before that Classic Trek is about relationships and TNG much more about technology, but it was only when I read Vered Gilad's article that I started thinking just how shallow the people in Next Gen really are.

Let's examine them, their friendships, families and their backgrounds. Picard has been described on several occasions by Riker and others as "a very private person." What they really mean is, he's a loner. This is something that is totally unacceptable on our

planet. Immediately some horrendous crime is committed, the cry goes up, "He's a loner!" (which is an insult to every other person who is content with his/her own company and lives a perfectly respectable and harmless life). His only friend is Riker and that is largely because of their positions on the ship as Captain and First Officer. They have no interests in common, Picard's being classical music and archaeology, and Riker's being the trombone, poker and women, not necessarily in that order, and there is a generation gap between them.

Data has no conception of friendship yet he desperately describes Geordi as his best friend, and what does it say for Geordi if on a ship of a thousand and more, his best friend is a walking computer?

Worf hasn't got a friend and what's more, doesn't want one. In fact, I doubt if the word is in the Klingon dictionary - certainly not in Worf's edition. He can hardly bring himself to say a civil word to K'Ehlyr!


Beverly has the odd breakfast with Picard, but it didn't make much progress in seven years on the Enterprise and when it did, it didn't last long (All Good Things).

The only two who had ever had a real relationship were Troi and Riker, and that was over before Farpont; but that didn't stop both of them from getting jealous when the other showed any interest in anyone else.

Now having got their friendships (or lack of them) out of the way, what of their families and background?

Picard has a brother with whom he has

about as much in common as a barn door, Riker has a father he hated the sight of for twenty years. Data has Lore - nuif said. Geordi's parents are both in Starfleet and not even stationed together, so no home and no bolt hole for Geordi. Crusher has a grannie, a ghost and super brat, whilst Troi has the mother from hell. Even the brilliant Wesley had to have two attempts to get into the Academy, whilst the barely literate Nog got in first time (I know that's got nothing to do with the rest of the article but I like to throw it in, given half a chance). The only one who has got two loving (adopted) parents is Worf, to whom they are a constant embarrassment - well, isn't that what parents are for? Why should he be any different from the rest of us?

So at the end of the day, when push comes to shove and the affluent hits the fan, shouldn't we be asking ourselves "Are these really the sort of people we want representing us on the frontier to space?" If any intelligent life forms they come across see them as an over all representation of the folks back home, are they ever going to want to come and meet the rest of us? 

CURRENTLY BEING SHOWN ON A TELEVISION NEAR YOU

by Stephen Shaw

Classic Trek:

Nice to watch this on Sunday morning on BBC tv. Captain Kirk does not come out very well in some episodes - I have always had considerable sympathy for Charlie in Charlie X. He was *not* treated very well by anyone! Especially by the good Captain - has he had no training in human resources management?

More perplexing was Kirk's performance in The Squire of Gothos. Everything that Kirk did in this episode seemed to lead his ship and crew into greater and greater danger. Firstly - wasn't this a first contact? Not a huge amount of diplomacy, certainly no prime directive, indeed a *very* aggressive response to everything. At the end of the

episode the Enterprise was *not* saved by Kirk's superb leadership skills, but by the very timely appearance of Trelane's parents! I think Kirk's performance in this episode just might have led to my requesting a transfer had I been on the crew!

Even in Errand of Mercy - towards the end of the first series - the Federation is still *imposing* its will on alien races and Kirk is being very pushy and aggressive indeed - although the ending epilogue speech does add a degree of introspection by the Captain, and perhaps a dawning realisation that maybe "we come in peace - shoot to kill" may have alternatives.

It is very notable in the reruns that Spock was *far* from lacking in emotions, with

frequent smiles and jokes in almost every episode! The lack of emotion seems to be more folklore than fact!

The Classic series was filmed to a very tight schedule and there are a fair number of weak episodes, but there are some great moments in many of them!

I have to admit to watching Classic Trek from the first UK broadcast so it does remain popular with me!

The Next Generation

- still with us on Wednesdays on BBC1 although we are now into the seventh series. The latest programs have not entertained me a great deal. I am not especially fond of programs heavy with Klingon politics or Beverly Crusher. Nothing personal! I enjoyed Gates' performance in Remember Me, but in both Suspicions and Sub Rosa she is taken out of the "normal" TNG characterisation into stories which seem to have been forced into the TNG format delicately with a sledgehammer. Gates' could have received better treatment from the scriptwriters and directors. I left Sub Rosa after only a few minutes - the opening eye catch was downright boring to me, and the opening of the episode was not credible to me. These were not TNG characters in a TNG universe for me.

PARALLELS was a sort of Klingon story - it featured Worf! - who has a great range of scripts written for him, including some well done. The images of all those Enterprises towards the end was nice. I must admit to liking a sprinkling of comedy in episodes and Parallels had some of those, especially Happy Birthday sung in Klingon. The ending with Worf asking Troi to have dinner with him was very delicately played, and we have to gloss over the previous comment regarding a human's ability to mate with a Klingon as so much macho warrior boasting...

Deep Space Nine

On Thursday nights on BBC2, we have had a few weak episodes recently. Again I

like a bit of humour, which favours especially the Quark episodes such as Rules of Acquisition. The Ferengi seem to operate on a basis of taking a profit where you can, with a fine balance being drawn to avoid losing all your customers very quickly. The "personal responsibility" approach, so heavily marketed these days, is well defined in this race. There are quite a number of episodes I like in DS9 as well as some I prefer to avoid.

I quite like the character of O'Brien, but he has had a couple of bad episodes - he certainly mutinied against the orders of a senior officer (can't recall the episode name) - perhaps the wrong O'Brien was killed in "Whispers"??? Now I learn (n/1 45 p5) that O'Brien is to serve a 20 year sentence for a crime - this is *not* the O'Brien we came to love and admire. All this time without his wife and daughter is seriously damaging this man's social skills. And why is a mutineer still in Starfleet? Another fine actor the writers and directors have been very unkind to.

Query - where are the Organians? How can the Klingons take aggressive action against DS9 and the Federation?? Please would the Producers answer this?

The Bajoran's don't appear to be doing all that well at sticking their civilisation back together after the occupation. Are they moving anywhere at all or are they too terrified to do anything? And how on earth do they manage to tolerate all the pseudo-Cardassian politicians and religious leaders they seem to have?

Animated...


Recently shown in the mornings on BBC, various days! I like animation, and I like the animated Star Trek. At least the Star Trek Exhibition Guidebook is not ashamed to recognise the existence of the animated series (two full pages!).

More Tribbles More Troubles is an excellent follow-on to the original The Trouble With Tribbles, and written by the same author.

Voyager

Not shown on BBC yet! From episodes I have been able to catch on video and at cons, this seems to have got off to a slow start, and is not going anywhere very fast! I do have some favorite episodes already, but why after a year of trying to get back to Earth is the Voyager still meeting all the same Aliens? And apparently further from Earth than when they started? The producers need to move away from recurring aliens on this show or it is going to fall apart very quickly. We need to *explore* as Classic Trek did. The recurring aliens in Voyager are not exactly a convincing species to have spread throughout the quadrant.

Two years on and we still have the Kazon with us??? This race has spread that far in the Gamma quadrant? Excuse me if I think that's not credible. I don't entirely find the race is credible! In Classic Trek the Klingons were given characterisation we could follow but the Kazon? Hmmm. Let's move on to new worlds, please?

I have to agree with so many folk that the hologram Doctor is great (guest appearance recently on Louis and Clarke), and Kes has sort of grown on me, although I did not like the episode with Mrs Caretaker and Kes' psychic skills. Tuvok is a fine Vulcan. 

THE ADAPTATION OF FANDOM TO (COMMERCIAL) REALITY

by Michael Flett

The cornerstone of the philosophy of IDIC is the belief that every one of us has a unique perspective, a unique vision, that nobody else can duplicate. Yet it also states that each of these perspectives, different though they may be, are each as important as any other, and we must respect both the view and the person who holds it, even if we do not agree with either.

I am twenty-five years old in a few months, and I count myself fortunate to have had Star Trek in my life all my life, though I have only been in "active" fandom - joining a club, meeting fans, writing - since I was eleven. I can't speak of the first sixteen years of organised fandom, as I wasn't part of them - all I know is from reading old con reports, magazine and fanzine articles, and speaking with friends I've met through fandom, who always get that faraway look in their eyes... Those were the dry years of no new Trek each week, when each fan, I feel, was special, driven to create. The only way to keep Trek alive was to do it themselves - and they did.

It is now 1996, and the drought is long over - there is now 5 times as much recorded Star Trek as there was only ten years ago. Trek has changed, but have we? Inevitably yes, change is the essential process of all existence - but change into what? Have we

changed as much as Trek has, and have we changed in the same way?

The front page of IDIC 45 carried a comment that membership is dropping - why? Disinterest in what the club has to offer? Disinterest in what Star Trek has to offer? Apathy? Or are there alternatives that are more readily accessible and attractive?

There is no denying that Trek has changed - each incarnation was designed differently, and each has developed differently within itself. Classic is often attacked for being technically dated, but to me it doesn't matter - it is a flash of hope, of the pioneer spirit, of friends joining together to face the unknown, of the restless spirits that drove the children of the 60s to change their world if they could. And though the terminology, costumes and soft focus may have dated, the ideas and ideals are still as relevant as they ever were. Classic Trek was achieved despite having no budget and no backing, and remains thirty years later, saying, "Look at me, I achieved this much on nothing".

The Next Generation brought with it 90s production values and technical perfection, but was less exploratory, more reflective, relaxed. If Classic is my home, these people

are best friends, a place I know I will always be welcome even if I don't quite belong.

Of the new Treks, Deep Space 9 should in many ways be the strongest. To me, Trek is always best when dealing with ideas and issues in ways that cannot be conventionally done on prime time television. DS9 is often attacked for the subjects it touches upon - war, occupation, the struggle for freedom, the guilt and struggle for forgiveness of your enemies, terrorism, religious intolerance, and the need for a higher kind of spirituality. Only this week the Warners cinema chain refused to carry the film *Kids* because it found the subject matter too controversial, the portrayal of the lives of New York children too disturbing. The thing is, the film is based on fact - if it disturbs the audience, it is because it forces them to acknowledge truths they would rather not be reminded of. I am not saying DS9 is on a par with this - if only it was, it would probably be all the better for it. Too often it settles for unconvincing happy endings, when the series was set up to be gritty and realistic. TNG was supposed to be the idealised world we would like to live in, DS9 should reflect where we are now.

Voyager, to me, is the mystery. It is plugged as having the pioneer spirit of Classic, the character struggle of DS9, and be from the creative team behind TNG so why is it all so aimless? Okay, first and fourth season TNG are unrecognisable as being the same, the series developed so far so fast, but with so many potentially great ideas and so much more experience behind it, why is Voyager going nowhere? I want so much more every time I watch an episode, but I usually end up disappointed.

I mentioned earlier dissatisfaction with Star Trek. It was once special, unique. Now it has become a mass-produced homogenous commodity, a marketing ground for the latest gimmick. Is it this dissatisfaction that is leading, not only to the drop in membership, but also to the increased aggression in the letters from those members who are staying? We all care so deeply about Star Trek that it is easy to lose perspective, to defend it irrationally. Classic is particularly vulnerable

to attack because of its age, but also has the most sentimental value attached to it for many people, myself included. It is easy to be obsessive, to demand perfection, when you have been in the business of fandom for as long as many Classic fans. They kept it alive, not Paramount, and if they don't like TNG or any of the new series, they may have good reason. They may well have created something better themselves in their own workshops, except because they didn't have the ability to hook up with a major studio, few ever knew about it. Perhaps this is why Paramount is now so determined to control every aspect of fandom - because they know that we do not settle for second best.

But I have been speaking of the long term fans - what of the new faces of the last ten years? Yes, I admit that I too am a "Fickle nufan" - I was excited when TNG was first announced, almost two years before I got to see it. It brought so much more than we had - new characters to get to know, new worlds and lives to learn about, so much to talk and write about! And so many new fans - but who were they? Were they the sort of people who had thought and fought and created for themselves, breathed the dream? Or were they part of the generation brought up playing war games on a computer, seeking a fast thrill rather than making friends and learning about the world and their place in it. These images are extremes - reality lies somewhere between, I am sure, but Trek is fast becoming the property of the instant gratification generation, placid and unjudging, uncomplaining for they are unable to articulate what they want but always demanding more.

There is another significant fact about this influx of new fans that I have not mentioned so far - they are largely male. Men tend to be more aggressive, more competitive than women. They tend to measure themselves by outside standards, rather than within. Witness the increased "my show is better than your show" rhetoric, without subtlety or tact. Whereas fandom was about creation and discussion, it is now bold statements without justification or thought. It has been suggested that the Internet is an even more adversarial forum than our

newsletter - if that is so, then I'll not bother surfing! Has it become too easy to be published - are so many people raising their voices, not because they have something that needs to be said, but simply because they have found a way to do so? I do not call on editors to act as censors - never! - rather I call on writers to think before they put pen to paper.

It is certainly true that Trek is not as great as it once was. Dramatically, the format has changed little to match the more sophisticated demands of today's audience, which is why Trek is often mocked. While it was once the defining force of episodic televised science fiction, it now lags behind the groundbreaking special effects of Babylon 5, which has the guts to demand a five-year attention span from its viewers, and the unique narrative structure of The X Files, that allows question upon question to build up each week, with none ever answered. Trek demands that at the end of the day, everything must be just as it was at the beginning of the episode, hunky dory. Whereas Trek once reflected its audience, I no

longer see myself or anything I recognise.

But rather than demanding better quality, are we taking it out on each other? Is Trek just too big now to organise any effective protest the way that was done in the 60s? Or is it kinder to just let it die for the time being, and explore thoroughly what has built in the last decade? Does this mean that I no longer want to be a fan, that I feel Janet, Valerie, Sheila and all those others slaving over hot typewriters are wasting their time? Absolutely not - quite the opposite, in fact. What I am saying is that it is up to us, the fans, again, to hang onto our dreams and use our voices with the experience we have gathered. Educate these new fans - teach them how to write well and how to organise their thoughts into convincing arguments that will earn them respect rather than drive others away. And to the clubs - be the very best that you can be in all things. Paramount may be keeping Trek alive for now, but we may be needed again, and it would be an honour. Never settle for anything less than the best - it's been thirty years, and we deserve it.



GETTING MAD AT PAD

By Vered Gilad

The writer of the following article wishes to express how embarrassed she feels about this whole thing, but would like to share her experience

The story begins with one very obnoxious fan (ahhhmmm, well, me) who read Peter A David's (PAD) latest TOS book, The Captain's Daughter, and found it so disappointing that she sat down and wrote her first, and the most longest book review to IDIC. Well - if I had just ended the whole story with that, but noooo, not me. I had to go all the way, and so the story begins.

I have recently discovered the Internet Newsgroups. A great way to converse about one's favourite subjects, and so I was very interested in knowing just how long it took for dear old PAD to write that book, as I had assumed that, based on its shallow characters, it didn't take him too long. I posted my query in one of the ST newsgroups and one kind fan told me that he could not answer the question, but why not

ask PAD himself - and so he introduced me to the greatest thing in the world, alt.fan.peter-david. PAD's own newsgroup in which PAD himself participates.

So, with this new information I braced myself and posted my query to the PAD n.group under the title, A Question for PAD. I waited and waited, and no response came, and PAD was the only one who could answer my question. Disappointed, I decided to go with the whole ordeal and so I posted my opinion of The Captain's Daughter. Please don't get me wrong - I did not sit down and write "I hated your book", "It was awful", "You write bad", etc. I wrote a well-balanced letter stating the points I thought were weak and what I *did* like, and how certain things could be done differently, why I was so disappointed and that I did like his Imzadi so

it wasn't like I had a personal grudge against him.

I waited again, and no response came from PAD though I could see his various other postings in the newsgroup; so, sadly, I assumed that PAD does not enjoy responding to criticism and that was my mistake (please, PAD fans, do not jump before you get to the end of this very sad story).

I was so frustrated I decided to move one step further; I posted a letter describing my terrible disappointment with PAD in *all* the ST newsgroups and also in the SF-written newsgroup, but not in PAD's. I gave it the unbelievably long title Peter David's The Captain's Daughter (Peter David does NOT respond!!!) I figured this would get someone's attention. Boy - I didn't know what I was getting into...

I described my situation in a very sarcastic manner, adding a few remarks that probably resulted in steam coming out of a few PAD fans' ears. I stated that *now* I know that PAD uses his n.group to promote his own numerous projects (which he does to the delight of his fans), that he responds only to truly devoted PAD fans and that he has become so rich and famous that he does not give a **** about the fans. (Oh, boy, now the walls in all the houses of PAD fans who are also IDIC members are shaking. No, don't leave now to write your reply because I can figure by myself what it will be, and my story hasn't finished yet.)

You guessed it - I got quite a few responses, and here is a summary of them - the main theme was, For heaven's sake, he's a busy writer, he doesn't have time to write to every fan who writes to him (but apparently he does have time to write to fans in the n.group and to tell people about his upcoming projects, so I could not accept that answer). They even went further, saying I should just be grateful that PAD even participates in his own n.group. Others said - What do you want him to say? That he's sorry? (Of course not - he doesn't have to be sorry about what he wrote.) Others told me to stop whining, calling me a "rambling twit" and adding the usual "get a life" statement.

Others said that he does respond to fans and that they had got replies from him, and two people who even asked to read my review of the book. One guy told me he's been a friend of PAD's for over 20 years and that he doesn't even call back his friends and relatives who leave messages on his answering machine because he's so busy.

Not all the responses were pro-PAD; one person said "What did you expect - he's a lousy writer".

I had a discussion with one of the people who replied to my posting, who told me that PAD (or any author) does not have to respond to any review that a fan writes about one of his books, and that usually he will respond to questions about various points in a book. He also advised me that if I would still like to get a response, I should write short letters, as an author is usually too busy to read long ones (but even then, not to be disappointed if I did not get a reply).

I read all the replies, came to the conclusion that I was awfully wrong, that I got mad for a very silly reason and what was I really expecting anyway?

So I decided that although I did not originally post my complaint in the PAD group, I really did owe PAD an apology for saying all those nasty things and I wrote how sorry I am for saying them and that now I understand how busy he is.

Happy ending? Not quite.


I thought, "That's that. I made a fool of myself, but it's over with, and anyhow, it's a lot easier to make a fool of yourself on the Internet." But then I opened one of the ST N.groups and lo and behold, *there was a response to my letter of complaint from PAD himself!* "Now I've really done it!": I thought and clicked the button to open PAD's letter. Turns out PAD had stopped browsing through the ST n.groups and just by chance decided that day to see how things were going. Just my luck. Of course, there was no way of escaping my posting. The poor guy asked that he be given a break. He does not respond to fans' letters discussing his work

because this could lead to an endless discussion. The only time he does that is when someone has completely misunderstood a point.

Well - if I felt guilty before... I replied to his letter, humbly asking his forgiveness (well, I guess I did grovel). I got no reply...

By the way, PAD also responded to the guy who said, "He's a lousy writer". He said that he expected a little courtesy, to which

that guy responded that if a writer participates in a newsgroup, he should expect some letters which aren't exactly kind (I reword the original).

Well, who's wrong, and who's right? It's probably somewhere in between. For me, it has been an educating experience. As for the monster I have created... (Look out for the upcoming postings in a newsgroup near you... The drama continues.) 

WHY EDIT?

by Sheila Clark

As a follow-up to the previous article, Writing Fan Fiction, we come to another question.

Why edit?

This may seem a silly question, but without wanting to tread on any toes, I have to say that editing is often vital. It's linked to a point I made on P 37 of N/L 45, in response to a comment on vanity publishing. A writer is often too close to her (I say "her" because most, though not all, fan writers are female) story to see any faults. She knows what she means. In plotting a story, she may come up with something like "Somehow they find a way through the mountains" - and in writing the story, fails to make it clear how they did. Either she knows, and didn't make it clear, or she doesn't know and has "fluffed" her way through the segment in question. It leaves the reader dissatisfied. Or else she knows exactly what her aliens look like but doesn't describe them adequately, so that subsequently the fact that they have obvious gills and four arms comes as a total surprise to the reader. Or she changes her mind about something partway through the story, and doesn't backtrack sufficiently to hide the fact that she has changed her mind. (And I'm as guilty of that as anyone; I've done it, though because of the nature of the incident, I got away with it. But I *should* have gone back several pages and put in a hint of what was to come, and because I know that, I've always been slightly dissatisfied with the story. It wasn't as good as it should have been.)

An editor will (or at least, should!) catch points like that, and insist on a rewrite of that segment. An editor should make sure that everything is described as fully as necessary; yet an editor should also clamp down on unnecessary padding, so that the action is speeded up and the story made more interesting.

Grammar, spelling and punctuation - the three bugbears of an editor's life (but sometimes of a writer's, too). All three have certain rules, although some punctuation can be a matter of individual preference. The day we first talked about putting out zines, I went out and bought a book on English usage (despite being a teacher who taught basic English usage to primary level children) - and yes, I have referred to it occasionally. Some writers come up with quite convoluted phrases that sound good but are grammatically completely wrong. Over the years we've had to accept that some things once considered wrong have crept into such common usage that it's pedantic to object to them, but there are one or two things that we *cannot* accept, no matter what. (For example, we insist on "Oblivious of", *not* "oblivious to". If you substitute "uncaring" or "unnoticing" for "oblivious", you'll see why.)

Local usage can be the cause of a lot of mistakes. Many years ago, one editor who put out a lot of zines invariably "corrected" words like "probably" to "proberbly". It was how she, and everyone where she lived, pronounced the word, and she genuinely

believed that she was correcting a misspelling. Well, nowadays, with computer spell-checkers, such a "correction" is going to be rare, but it could still happen; spell-checkers sometimes fail to include some of the most obvious words, and all it needs is for an editor to add her own spelling of a word to the dictionary, thinking it missing, for her computer to accept it for evermore.

Some zine editors, especially in America, have been known to make fairly major changes, even rewriting bits of a story, without prior consultation. This, of course, is what professional editors sometimes do: it's frequently done in Hollywood to scripts. If you come across a copy of one of the issues of the US zine *Kraith* (originated by Jacqueline Lichtenberg) you will find in the editorial a run-down of the procedure a submission to them went through. Read by several people, commented on and criticised, it was returned to the writer who, if she was thick-skinned enough to try again, rewrote it and resubmitted it. It would then go through the same procedure, sometimes three or four times. The editorial said something like, "Some of our best stories have been completely changed from, and bear no resemblance to, the one that was first submitted". Well, fine, but what happened to that first story? Did the writer keep the basic idea and reuse it somewhere else, or did she just forget about it?

Many years ago, someone suggested to us (completely seriously) that we should print what was sent in to us in the *exact* way it was sent to us, *mistakes and all*, because that was what the writer had written, and to edit it, make any corrections, was to print something that was *not* what the writer had produced, and was therefore dishonest (or words to that effect). After we had retrieved our jaws from the ground (and the thud of them hitting the ground might have been mistaken for as major an earthquake as Britain experiences) we shook our heads more in sorrow than anything else and ignored the suggestion, though occasionally we *have* toyed

with the idea of printing a single page made up of a selection of the commoner mistakes (including typos - and I've come up with some beauties!) just for fun. To put out a zine obviously full of mistakes is a recipe for disaster.

There was once (and only once) I made a fairly major change to a couple of pages without prior consultation - because I was typing the stencils at the time (that's how long ago it was), we had a pretty tight publication deadline, and I had suddenly discovered a serious discrepancy - which I had completely missed when I first read the story - in the timing of the sequence of events. All it basically needed was two incidents swapped over, but it wasn't as simple as swapping two segments; I had to do some rewriting, using as much of the writer's original phraseology as possible. I've also done something similar once or twice with the writer's prior permission, but it's not easy. We prefer to limit our editing of a story to "cosmetic" editing - we correct grammar, spelling and punctuation unblushingly; anything else we refer back to the writer. We proofread carefully - even so some typos slip through.

I never have found it... but I've been told that in an early issue of *Log Entries*, I perpetrated, "Scotty shit down the engines"...

"ALL GOOD THINGS"



MASKS

by

Martin Stahl

No, this article is not about the TNG episode I never quite understood.

I would like to discuss some of the make up and the masks that were made to let us believe in the alien face, and not the actor behind it.

Especially in the later seasons of TNG, most alien makeup simply consists of one of the famous bumpheads - whether it be Klingon, Romulan, the Traveller, Takarian, Tanugan, J'naii, Caldonian, Ktarian or Malcorian. Those were interesting makeup ideas, but somehow they all looked alike. Very similar to Humans, with a different forehead, but very few changes to the lower part of the face. When there is hair on their head it looks very Humanlike - sometimes longer (like on the Klingons), sometimes as short as most of us wear our hair. In many cases it was intended to make them look similar to Humans to make the story more interesting. For example, the Malcorians were a race whose development ran parallel to 20th century Earth. Many other aliens Kirk or Riker fell in love with had to be attractive to the Human eye. Can you imagine Riker having an affair with a giant slug? Also it was important to have the Lotians from Piece of the Action look Human; the concept of the Chicago gangs with their heaters, cars, pool billiards and everything else would not have worked with giant jellyfish.

As the TNG Makeup FX Journal shows, most of the makeup is very costly, with lots of glue and appliances added to the actor's face. But I think sometimes less would have been more effective.

The worst example is the Romulans. In the original series they looked exactly like Vulcans. No wonder, because they are the descendants of Vulcans who left their home world several millennia ago. That would not be enough time to evolve other body structures. It was also the intention of Balance of Terror to show the exterior

similarities of Vulcans and Romulans, but that did not necessarily mean that Spock was a traitor who gave information to the Romulans. Suddenly, in the hundred years between Original Trek and TNG, the Romulans evolved this V-shaped forehead that distinguished them from the Vulcans. This appliance was devised to bring out the diversity between them and make the Romulans look more menacing. I think that was a wrong concept because originally the warlike Romulans were supposed to look exactly like the peaceful Vulcans, which was the problem Stiles had with Spock in Balance of Terror.

The best Klingons I have ever seen were those from ST:TMP. They looked real alien and I am still fascinated each time I watch the scene of their battle with V'ger. That we hear not a single English spoken word, the strange music, the reddish light of the interior of the Klingon ship and their - according to a warlike race - logical behaviour add to the credibility of them as an alien race. Most of it was lost when the Klingons returned in STIII:TSFS. Suddenly they looked - bumped foreheads notwithstanding - like Humans under mask with long hair, they spoke English more often than Klingonese and their behaviour was more like the cliché of an evil race; killing an officer because of a mistake he made or shooting without any analysis beforehand. Unfortunately the Klingons were presented this way for all the following movies and in most of the TNG episodes. The only time they looked a little more alien again was in STV:TFF.

Somehow Michael Westmore and his makeup designers got trapped in the idea of creating aliens by sticking appliances onto the skin and adding some paint to them. This is very obvious in DS9 where many aliens from the Gamma Quadrant consist of many appliances added to the whole body (Tosk, the Jem'hadar, and many aliens seen in the background). Of course they look very impressive, but somehow they all look the

same way.

The original series had neither the money nor the technical possibilities to create the masks that were used in TNG, DS9 and Voyager now. Sometimes they created aliens by putting actors into a costume like the Gorn or the Mugato and now, 30 years later, they look rather silly. Sometimes they also used appliances on the head like the giant skulls with the pulsating vein of the Talosians or the heads of the Vians that still look more alien than many of TNG's aliens. In the 60s the ways to create an alien were much more subtle but very convincing. The best example is taken directly from the first pilot, *The Cage*. Okay, there were big appliances on the heads of the Talosians, but the best effect that helped to make their appearance alien was letting them be played by women and then having dubbed their dialogue with male voices. Many people still do not know that they were played by women, and the male voice automatically lets you believe that they are men, so there is something confusing about them - the appearance does not, somehow, fit the voice - that makes them very convincing aliens. Another fine example is Ruk, the tall android from *What Are Little Girls Made Of?* His whole makeup consists of a bald head and just shades added to his face - but this gives him a more menacing look than all the heavy makeup that is added to many other aliens.

Journey to Babel presents more aliens than any other Star Trek episode. It also introduced the Andorians and Tellarites. The Andorian makeup is a rather simple one, just blue skin colour, a white wig and a pair of antennae. Did you realise that there is no alien race in the whole of TNG with antennae? One of my favourite aliens are those two tiny ambassadors at the banquet scene with the silver faces and the red hats. Although their makeup is very simple I find them more convincing than many of the other aliens we saw in Star Trek. Other aliens you see in the background have VISOR-like eyes and a unique hairstyle. The aliens from *Journey to Babel* were also very convincing because each one behaved differently. The calm-logical way of the Vulcans, the short-tempered Tellarite Gav, the soft-moving but

also very fast Andorians and the hectic little ones.

For me, most of the aliens we see in Classic Trek appear to be more convincing than those from TNG with all the appliances on the head. I think the reason for this is that in most cases they just look too similar. Each of them has a head about the size of an average Human being and in his/her face - mostly in the forehead - some wrinkles or bony structures added. Quite often I think that we Humans are the race in the Star Trek universe with the smoothest skin. I know, it is always much easier to add something to the face of an actor than to remove it, but I think at least in some cases it should be possible, for example to hide the ears. Each of them has eyes, nose and mouth in the same position while even the salt vampire from the very first screened episode has just a hole in the face instead of a nose and mouth.

When I saw the Kazons in the first Voyager episode I thought, Oh, not again! They looked exactly like the bumphead of the week and reminded me of Klingons with short hair. One of the more fascinating races was the Sikharians from Prime Factors who looked exactly like Humans, but they had a unique hair style with metal loops in it that look quite differently from anything we have seen before. I liked it very much.

Apart from the appliance on the forehead there are many other possibilities to give an actor an alien look. You could add hair or feathers to one's face - for example, at positions of the face where no hair grows on Humans - or a pair (or even two) of antennae, change the colour of the skin or hair (why should there not be aliens with green hair?) or use people of a different body size. Hide their mouths and let them intake only liquid food through the nose. Add a tail - we Humans belong to one of the very few mammalian species without a tail. Give them cat-like ears on the top of the head. Cover the whole body with fur. Give them another opening in the body for speaking than for eating. There are many other possibilities than 'bumphead of the week'.



CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER PIKE

A HYPOTHETICAL PORTRAIT OF A STARSHIP CAPTAIN

by Marie I J Raper

As the title of the following article suggests, this portrait is an expression of *my own opinion* as to the kind of man Captain Christopher Pike might have been, and therefore is not to be taken as gospel.

Captain Pike: The Man Behind the Starfleet Officer

"You set standards for yourself no-one could meet. You treat everyone on board like a human being... except yourself." - Dr Phillip Boyce, The Cage.

With these words, Boyce gave us an inkling of the kind of man his commanding officer was: Pike was not a man who could be compared with either Kirk or Picard, rather he possessed the qualities of both of these Captains. On the one hand, Pike is a man of action, yet at the same time he is compassionate, thoughtful, reserved and a figure of authority. If Kirk and Picard are considered to be extremes, then Pike would probably lie somewhere in between. He was a man who thought a great deal of his crew and clearly was not immune to feelings of guilt when *any* of his officers was killed or injured, in spite of the fact that logical reasoning told him there was nothing he could have done to prevent it. The pilot episode The Cage touched upon the incident at Rigel VII - clearly this was something that Pike had felt very strongly about when confiding in Boyce:

"I should have smelled trouble when I saw the swords and armour."

Sounds not unlike his more celebrated successor, James T Kirk, when I think about it. On the other hand, he was not the kind of Starship Captain who would take any kind of action without a very good reason, which was why Pike initially refused to venture to Talos IV *"without any other indication of survivors"*; instead he opted for their original course:

"We'll continue on to the Vega Colony... take

care of our own sick and injured."

As a Starfleet officer and Starship Captain, Pike is behaving perfectly correctly by placing priority on his vessel and his crew, which is precisely the kind of action that Kirk and Picard would have taken in the same position. Like any Starship Captain, Pike does not have the luxury of second-guessing himself when making command decisions, and from what little we have seen of Pike in action, he has never tried to do so.

Background and Starfleet Career

One fact that was established in The Cage was that Pike was born in Mojave in the south-west region of America. Taking into account that the events of this episode took place in the year 2254, I would estimate that Pike was born in the year 2218. It is not known whether he had siblings or if he was an only child, but it is possible that his parents might well still have been alive during his tenure as Captain. The novel Vulcan's Glory implied that he made a point of visiting his parents when time allowed. If Pike entered Starfleet Academy at the age of 18, he would have undergone the four-year training programme during the period 2236-2240. Unlike Kirk and Picard, I doubt that Pike was what would be known as a fast-track officer; indeed I believe that he did not reach the rank of Captain until about 2250, at age 32.

Assuming that the USS Enterprise was his one time in command, then Pike succeeded Captain Robert April (b. circa 2190) in taking command of the USS Enterprise in 2250. During the next thirteen years, he completed two five-year missions, which included one of the first missions to Talos IV, an aspect of Pike's career which will be examined later. As Captain of the USS Enterprise, he was responsible for a considerably smaller crew - 203 as opposed to 430 during Kirk's first five-year mission.

After completing the two five-year missions of exploration, Pike relinquished command of the USS Enterprise to James T Kirk (2233 - 2372) and was himself promoted to Fleet Captain/Commodore and was based at Starbase 11 for a time. Three years after stepping down as Captain, Pike was badly injured as a result of an accident aboard a class-J training vessel. Exposure to Delta radiation left him wheelchair-bound and unable to speak. Ultimately, Pike accepted the Talosians' invitation to live on Talos IV, albeit recreated as the handsome young man he used to be in 2254 (The Menagerie Part II).

If Pike had any passions or interests outside Starfleet, then it was his love for horses; it was entirely possible that he also looked after and bred them. He confided his desire for horses to Dr Boyce at the start of The Cage. It would also explain how he was able to recognise his horse Tango when the Talosians recreated his home town of Mojave.

Consideration of The Cage and Beyond

In 2254, Captain Christopher Pike commanded one of the first missions to Talos IV, and only then because his crew had discovered indications of survivors from the SS Columbia on the surface of the planet. Until then, Pike was not willing to venture to the planet for two reasons:

- i) The Enterprise had received only one half-completed transmission concerning the SS Columbia's crash-landing on Talos IV
- ii) Pike had his own crew to consider; a few of them needed treatment for injuries sustained from Rigel VII
- iii) Pike was therefore unwilling to put his ship and crew into potential and unnecessary danger.

There is no doubt in my mind that Pike inspired complete loyalty in his crew, even though he admitted that *"I can't get used to having a woman on the bridge... No offence, Lieutenant (ie Number One), you're different."*

This clearly did not detract from the lengths the crew was willing to go to in order to rescue their Captain from the Talosians, who had captured him with a combination of

their power of illusion and the SS Columbia's *only* survivor, who turned out to be Vina.

No-one doubts that Chris Pike was a man of reason, and it did not take him long to realise what had happened with the Talosians; he persuaded the reluctant Vina to help him by telling him all she knew about the Talosians, and through her he learned about what had happened to the planet: *"War... thousands of years ago."* Vina, The Cage.

In spite of the fact that Pike and Vina had never met before, he was guilt-ridden when Vina was apparently punished by the Talosians: *"I'm the one who's not co-operating, why don't you punish me?"*

However, he was able to learn more from the Talosians, who confirmed something that he's already worked out for himself: *"An Earth craft did crash here, with only a single survivor."* Talosian Magistrate, The Cage; and it was through the Talosians that Pike learned how Vina came into the equation; and if not Vina, then a choice had to be made; *"The female you call 'Number One' has the superior mind and would produce highly intelligent children."* *"The factors in (the yeoman's) favour are youth and strength, also an unusually high female drive."* Talosian Magistrate, The Cage.

Ultimately, the Talosians are forced to allow Pike and the women to go free, once they learned of the Humans' *"unique hatred of captivity"*, which meant almost certain extinction for the Talosians.

"They can't use you... you're free to go back to the ship." Vina, The Cage.

It was fairly clear in my mind that Pike fully intended to take Vina back with him, but when the time came to leave, he is refused: *"I can't... go with you."* Vina, The Cage.

The reason became fairly clear to Pike: *"It was necessary to show you that her desire to stay is an honest one."* Talosian Magistrate, The Cage.

Pike returned to the Enterprise alone, and when asked if Vina was coming, his answer was brief and to the point: *"No... No, and I agreed with her reasons."*

As a result of Pike's consequent report, Starfleet Command imposed Starfleet General Order Seven, which prohibited unauthorised contact by the Federation with Talos IV. As of 2267, General Order Seven was the only one that still carried the death penalty.

Conclusion and Final Thoughts

When I originally considered writing an article on Captain Christopher Pike, I originally thought of him as a 23rd century version of Jean-Luc Picard, and to a certain degree I still believe that is the case. As I mentioned earlier, I do not consider that Pike was a man whose attitudes and command reactions could be compared with those of Kirk or Picard, but as a combination of both men's qualities.

There is no doubt in my mind that Captain Christopher Pike inspired a great deal of loyalty from the crew that he

commanded. Not only were they prepared to go out of their way to rescue him when he was captured by the Talosians, but thirteen years later one of his former crew, Commander Spock, was willing to put his career on the line in order to take Pike to Talos IV to give him a better quality of life. Once Kirk and Pike realised why Spock was willing to risk the death penalty to reach Talos IV, Pike was given a choice as to whether or not he wanted to go back to the planet. Ultimately he accepted the chance to live the remainder of his life recreated as the young man he used to be.

Sources of Research

The Classic Trek episode The Cage
The Star Trek Encyclopedia: a Reference Guide to the Future by Michael Okuda, Denise Okuda & Debbie Mirek
The Star Trek novel Vulcan's Glory by D C Fontana.



REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



• **GHOST OF A CHANCE** by Mark A Garland & Charles G McGraw Voy7 Pocket Books. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Badly damaged by a 'close encounter' with a brown dwarf star, the Voyager discovers an inhabited world being torn apart by a volcanic catastrophe. Can they help the natives without breaching the Prime Directive? Their problem is compounded by the presence of another spacefaring race, the Televek, whose offer of aid seems too good to be true.

There are certain writing traps that fan writers regularly fall into - one of these is assuming that the reader knows who is being written about (which is logical, after all, since the readers are other fans). The first 40 or so pages of this book fall into the professional writers' trap which is the exact opposite - assuming that *nobody* picking the book up knows the characters, and carefully introducing them and their positions and duties on the ship. This can be done casually

and well; unfortunately, in this case these introductions are laborious and boring, and could have been done far more professionally by any half decent amateur writer.

Once past these 40 pages, the story itself becomes fast-moving and crammed full of action. Unfortunately, it's so full of action that it becomes boring (again) in fairly short order; I felt it needed far more variety of pace if only to give the reader (let alone the characters) time to catch their breath. In addition, apart from B'Elanna, the regular characters come over as pretty thick. I was left with the impression that B'Elanna is the favourite character of these writers, and that an awful lot of detail was skipped in order to make her look really, really good. Scotty was a miracle worker? In this book, B'Elanna makes him look like a total beginner!

In honesty, by the time I was halfway through, I was scanning the book rather than reading it, and I couldn't summon up enough interest to re-read it, so I may have missed

something; but I felt that many parts of the development were far from clear. For example, there was a lot about the brown dwarf that I felt was left unexplained; and although the Televek were quite well developed, I would have liked to know more about their culture and I couldn't quite work out how they knew Drenar was a planet worth visiting.

The basic idea is good, and could have been developed into an interesting story. For me, however, this isn't it. 3/10.

• **THE RETURN** by William Shatner (with Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens) Pocket Books hardback £9.99
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

At the end of *Ashes of Eden*, Spock, standing at Kirk's graveside on Veridian III, becomes aware that something has beamed Kirk's body away. This book begins at that point, and Kirk regains consciousness aboard a Romulan vessel, convinced that he is a patriotic, if Human-by-birth, Romulan, that his Romulan wife and children were killed by Jean-Luc Picard and that he must, therefore, kill Picard. He has been revived by the use of Borg technology; the Borg and the Romulans are allied.

I have to admit to extreme prejudice here I've said it before, I dislike stories where the enemy is invincible, with superior weapons etc, yet still have to be defeated; and I detest Borg stories. Having said that, I tried very hard to be objective while reading the book, but it still left me with the same sort of feeling I had after *Wrath of Khan* (my least favourite of the movies). There is too much in it; too much action, too convoluted a plot line, too much technobabble - while at the same time, not enough in it; not enough explanation of how Borg technology could possibly revive someone dead so long he would inevitably be completely brain-damaged, not enough explanation of how the Romulans could so brainwash Kirk... Though, come to think of it, the brainwashing could be the direct result of the brain damage...

There's an awful lot of whipping around

the galaxy, including visiting Deep Space 9; there are an awful lot of what I can only call coincidences... and it all has to happen inside seven days. The ending is, once again, up in the air; with Kirk apparently dead (again!) and Spock convinced that his friend is still alive.

I did like the explanation of where the Borg came from, I must admit; that was an interesting little twist. But apart from that, I found the book a disappointment. I know a lot of people seem to like it, have even suggested it as a possible storyline for the next Trek movie (which if all the rumours are to be believed, does have a certain amount in common with this story anyway) but I would hesitate to give it more than 5 out of 10.

• **THE RINGS OF TAUTEE** by Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch 78 Pocket Books. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The fifteen planets orbiting Tautee have all exploded, leaving the sun surrounded by fifteen incipient rings. Kirk suspects a Klingon superweapon has destroyed the system, home to over two billion people. On closer investigation, the *Enterprise* is caught in a series of severe energy waves; picks up a distress signal; and is challenged by four Klingon ships, investigating the Federation superweapon that has caused the damage. Then Spock reports that Tautee will shortly be destroyed; and unless the energy waves can be stopped, the effect will spread, reaching the nearest inhabited planets in 62 days, Vulcan in 408 days and Earth 26 days after that. In addition, they detect the existence of survivors - possibly several thousand - yet rescuing them is a breach of the Prime Directive, as the Tautean race, although it had interplanetary spaceflight, was still a pre-warp culture.

My first reaction to this book was "Not another rift in space that will destroy the universe"! However, the writing is excellent, the story moves well, the established characters are in character, the writers' own characters are excellently developed, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

I was a little iffy about the arguments

revolving around the breach of the Prime Directive; I had always understood it to mean that a race should have developed spaceflight before being contacted, but not necessarily warp drive or equivalent. The Tauteans had spaceflight, they had successfully colonised three of their system's planets and although they *had* caused the disaster, they had *not* done anything that could be described as "trying to destroy themselves with irresponsible use of nuclear weapons". However, it was fun seeing Kirk work a logical way around the Prime Directive, even although I personally didn't feel he needed to.

To me, the development of this book makes far more sense regarding a Federation/Klingon Treaty than ST:VI - The Undiscovered Country does, and I definitely recommend it. 9/10.

• **KLINGON** by Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch, based on the script by Hilary Bader - the novelisation of the CD-Rom Pocket Books. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

In the evenings, during crucial talks on DS9 between Gowron and Admiral Jellicoe, both sides socialise to a certain extent, and Gowron tells the Federation officers the story of Pok, son of a friend of Gowron's, and the choices he must make as he becomes a warrior. As I understand it, the storytelling is probably a "frame" for what is actually the story on the CD-Rom. Barclay is drawn into the novel to answer Gowron's questions - "What should Pok do now?"

I approached this book with some trepidation - I'm a bit fed up of Klingons, and especially Klingon warrior honour. However, I was pleasantly surprised; I thoroughly enjoyed the book. Basically it's a fairly lightweight adventure - well, a double adventure in a way, because you have the events in the "frame" as well as the events in Gowron's story, but after the convoluted plot of *The Return* (see above) it came as a welcome change of pace.

The story is quite short, taking up only 192 pages - about two-thirds of the book. The rest is made up of a short "history" on the

making of the CD Rom, and then short "tasters" from the four books making up the June release, *Invasion!* which has one book set in each of the four incarnations of Trek. (As an aside, I can't say I found these "tasters" particularly interesting - the "Ho, hum, yet another deadly threat to the galaxy as we know it!" reaction set in.)

All in all, I have to give *Klingon* 9 out of 10. (On the other hand, I'd give the *Invasion!* tasters about 2. Doesn't augur well for the books!)

• **STAR TREK VOYAGER: COLD FIRE (Video)** Reviewed by Leslie Moyes

Wow, what an episode! This is what I definitely call dark Trek, and it is also the best Kes episode yet. It gives her an even darker and possibly manipulative character (if she wanted it!) and there were also shades of the Amanda character from *True Q*; but this story had a darker edge, especially when she wills coffee cups to explode, plants to burn and something even more deadly which Tuvok finds out almost at the cost of his own life. In my opinion this has to be one of the most disturbing scenes ever in Trek since the chest-burster Conspiracy and Worf's venom breath in *Genesis*. But Kes is under the influence of a leader of ageless breakaway Ocampa (Tanis) - a superb and sinister performance by Alien Nation's Gary Graham, and one of the best villains for the show yet, as these Ocampa appear good on the outside; but as the old saying goes, "scratch the veneer and something nasty will crawl out".

I feel this would make a better threat to the crew than the laughable Kazon, and the misunderstood "villains" who only want to survive.

We also meet for the first time the female Caretaker, *Suspiria* (a production member's homage to a classic 70s Italian gothic horror movie) in the form of a little girl, who claims vengeance on the Voyager crew for killing her mate (as she thinks), and in scenes reminiscent of *The Omen*, she exacts her vengeance. All in all, this is *Voyager* at its best. Please, producers, make more dark

storylines and fewer anomalies and stupid Kazon; and I hope it isn't long before we see Suspiria and the renegade Ocampo again.

After this episode I now have a different view of Kes; what a development! 10/10

• CIC VIDEO REVIEWS - by Christopher Howell

ST:DEEP SPACE NINE Volume 4.2

In *The Visitor*, a young writer finds her favourite author, an old, generous man. Curious why he stopped writing, the young woman is told the answers by her hero, Jake Sisko....

City on the Edge of Forever, Inner Light, Duet...all strong, powerful episodes, but none of those made this reviewer cry. *The Visitor* did. As Jake makes sacrifices in his life to rescue his father from a subspace fragment, the rest of the crew rally around to support him. The scenes when Sisko realizes that Jake has abandoned his life to rescue him, and Jake himself making the ultimate sacrifice, had my face as wet as a swimming pool. Avery Brooks and Cirroc Lofton are excellent, but Tony Todd as the older Jake acts his socks off and takes the acting award - just. Moving, Touching, Brilliant, and Capt. Nog makes an appearance too! 10/10, it would have got 11 if CIC Video had put some tissues in the case.

'Let go Jake, if not for yourself, then for me....'
Capt. Sisko ST:DSN *The Visitor*

While in the Gamma Quadrant, O'Brien and Bashir are captured by a group of Jem'Hadar. Bashir realizes that their leader, Goran'Agar, is *not* addicted to the drug the Founders use to control them. As Goran persuades the Doctor to eliminate his men's dependency on Ketracel-white, O'Brien attempts to escape....

Rene Auberjonois directs *Hippocratic Oath*, which expands the Jem'Hadar Arc. The amount Goran and his men know about Runabouts and Starfleet uniform code is a possible indication to the level of Dominion infiltration within the Federation, while

Goran himself comes across as a Commander wanting a better life for his people. At the heart of this episode is Bashir's 'optimism' vs O'Brien's 'realism'. The 'B' plot involves Worf and Odo clashing on the station, the former accusing the changeling of not doing his job properly. *Oath* proves that DS9's 'grit' is still present, and the thought of the Jem'Hadar being set free from the Dominion should be addressed in a future episode. Good stuff with a downbeat ending. 7/10

'...We came here to escape the Votra, it's time to stop living by their rules....' Goran'Agar, ST:DS9 *Hippocratic Oath*

ST:DEEP SPACE NINE Volume 4.3

In *Indiscretion*, one of Kira's associates discovers a piece of the missing ship which her resistance friend was on. Before she leaves DS9 to investigate, Sisko asks her to wait for a Cardassian representative from the new Civilian Government. Kira reluctantly agrees, then Gul Dukat arrives....

Indiscretion is directed by TNG's LeVar Burton and on the whole is a story about former enemies now learning to work together. There's an interesting, if flawed speech from Dukat about how the occupation actually *benefitted* Bajor before Kira shuts him up, but as the story unwinds the Bajoran learns some *very* surprising facts about the Gul's past, one of which promises to inflict considerable damage to Dukat's standing back home. The Breen (mentioned in TNG's *Hero Worship*) are finally seen here, sort of. Back on DS9, Kasidy Yates has a proposal for Sisko, which threatens to end their relationship. There's little action here, but plenty of good dialogue - typical DS9 really. *Indiscretion* is interesting, surprising, but overall, average. 6/10

'.....Cardassia and Bajor will grow, to be not only allies, but also close friends' - Dukat ST:DS9 *Indiscretion*

Avery Brooks is in the Director's seat for *Rejoined*, which features a Trill science team coming to DS9. They're hoping to create the first (?) stable wormhole. The leader of the team, Dr Kahn, used to be Nilani, who was

married to Torias Dax, which makes Dr. Kahn Dax's ex-wife. Confused? So is Quark! Despite Sisko's offer of leave, Dax is confident that she can cope with the situation. When Dax and Kahn meet at a reception for the team however, old feelings begin to resurface....

I suspect that some people will have problems watching *Rejoined*. It's not every Trek episode that features two attractive women kissing! But this is a love story, about two people who still feel strongly about each other, but who are also aware that their feelings could result in exile from Trill society, and certain death. As a love story, *Rejoined* works, and after 20 minutes, you'll almost forget that the two people involved are of the same sex. Full Marks to Terry Farrell and Susanna Thompson for strong performances, and for having the guts to pull off what must have been a difficult scene. 7/10

'.....somehow it's still you....' Dr Kahn ST:DS9
Rejoined

ST:VOYAGER Volume 2.1

When Chakotay performs a solitary ceremony to honour his father, his shuttle has the misfortune to wander into Kazon-Ogla space, giving a young Ogla Warrior the chance to earn his name by killing Chakotay....

Initiations features a great performance from Aron Elsenberg (DS9's Nog) as Kar, a young man who eventually discovers that not all Starfleeters are bad. With the Kazon and Voyager both looking for them, Kar and Chakotay learn from one another about Names, Uniforms and Beliefs. Information about the Kazon and their enemy is revealed here, but ultimately this episode wastes the chance to set them apart from that other warrior race 70,000 light years away. Neelix makes a appearance in the Captain's chair and there's a couple of space battles, but for some reason *Initiations* just seems a bit....flat. 5/10

'.....there are worse things than being killed by your enemy' - Kar, ST:Voy, *Initiations*

Non-Sequitur opens with Harry Kim, who wakes up in bed, on Earth....

This episode features another Spatial anomaly and another link to the Alpha Quadrant. However this episode *does* entertain. As Kim wonders what's going on, his strange behaviour worries his fiancée Libby, his Starfleet friend, and eventually Starfleet itself. There a nice scene here when Harry asks Libby to pretend that he's just come home after a long mission, and another when the *Ensign* is asked why he's in a hurry to leave behind a wonderful life. There's also a surprise meeting with another Voyager crew member. Original? No, Entertaining? Definitely. 7/10

'I Love you Harry, Welcome Home....' - Libby, ST:Voy *Non Sequitur*

ST:VOYAGER Volume 2.4

Maneuvers opens with Voyager encountering a transmission from what appears to be a Federation beacon. However, the crew's optimism is dented (along with the shields) when the Kazon-Nistrim attack, using new tactics which able them to steal a transporter module from the ship. The mystery of the Kazon's success is revealed when a old friend of Chakotay's appears on the viewscreen....

Seska's reappearance is the start of tough times for Voyager's First Officer, who feels responsible for the theft of Federation technology which could alter the status-quo within the Kazon Sects. At times, this episode is like watching a chess match, as Seska/The Kazon and Chakotay/Voyager constantly try to out-maneuver each other. Thankfully, *Maneuvers* is more entertaining then watching chess! Seska makes a good adversary, even if her personal motives in controlling the Kazon are unclear, and Janeway is too lenient with Chakotay towards the end. A good episode which ends with a totally unexpected maneuver....7.5/10


'First you gave me your Maquis Secrets, and now I want Voyager's Command codes....' -

Seska, ST:Voy *Maneuvers*

Resistance is not futile, it's the second episode on Volume 2.4! An Away Team led by Janeway obtains much needed Tellerium for Voyager's Warp Engines, but only Neelix escapes an ambush from the Mokra, the dictatorship which controls the planet. Tuvok and Torres are forced to enjoy the Mokra's hospitality while Chakotay negotiates for their release. Meanwhile Janeway is looked after by an old man.....

Joel Grey is great as Caylem, whose life has been shattered by the Mokra. Believing

the Captain to be his long-lost daughter, he helps Janeway's attempt to release Voyager's Chief Engineer and Tactical Officer, who has to endure, and express, pain from the Mokra. It's nice to see the Captain off the ship, and her solution to breaking-into the prison is...urm, interesting, while the ending features a very nice scene between Caylem and his daughter. Slow but OK. 6/10

'So much tragedy for one man to bear....'
Augris ST:Voy *Resistance* 



ZINE REVIEWS

• **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED** by Kay Stagg. Reviewed by Jean Sloan

In some respects this zine could be described as a prequel to ST:VI; Kay fills in a bit of the missing history of Fed/Klingon relations to account for the breakdown of the peace apparently established at the end of ST:V, and to explain Kirk's out-of-character comment in ST:VI, "Let them die".

The story is set during the first 5-year mission, in the Caldan system, where two planets, Laycur and Primus II, have been at war for some considerable time. Kirk points out the similarity between them and the situation on Eminiar VII, but there the war is not fought by computer. Laycur is a military dictatorship but recently a peace movement has gained momentum, and the Federation has become involved in facilitating negotiations between the two planets. Laycur scientists have developed a doomsday weapon, intelligence about which is in Federation hands via an efficient spy. However, Primus II is too close to Laycur to allow the weapon to be used without destroying Laycur as well; and in any case it is not in the Laycur Military's interests to have peace; their regime would become redundant. The regime wants to keep the status quo, so a plan is hatched to derail the peace process.

A peace summit is due to take place on

Primus II; a Federation shuttle carrying Admiral Dowling as negotiator will pick up the leader of the Laycur peace party, Ramar, and transport him to Primus II. The Laycur plan is to get the Klingons to make the peace envoy disappear, thus destroying the leader of the peace movement and engendering suspicion. The Klingons will be given the weapon in return. The weapon is concealed in the diplomat's shuttle, just to make sure the Klingons keep their end of the bargain, then the Laycur military sits back and awaits the solution to the problem. It is the disappearance of the shuttle, and spy intelligence about the secret weapon, which brings about the involvement of the Enterprise.

The shuttle is traced to Primus I, another small planet in the system, and the Enterprise has the job of recovering the weapon and the peace party if its members are still alive. The search takes Kirk, Spock and McCoy to Primus II where they meet a race of rather endearing aliens, the Hachi; then Kirk and Spock are sent to Laycur to find the blueprints of the weapon.

The plot is complex; the politics of the story universe are developed in some detail and are interesting in their own right; but the reason I enjoy Kay Stagg's work is her exploration of the Kirk/Spock/McCoy relationship. We see the characters function both in the daily routine of shipboard life,

and when they are placed in jeopardy. There is plenty of interplay between the main characters, and the characterisation is spot on.

Events in the story move quickly without sacrificing background detail - little touches like Scotty announcing that one of the landing shuttle latrines is malfunctioning keep the reader aware that there is a prosaic real world to contend with while you are trying to save the galaxy. It rains incessantly on Primus I, which suits neither Spock nor McCoy; the battle with the elements is the source of much humour, as is Spock's relationship with the friendly and inquisitive Hachi. When the situation on Primus is resolved and the search party returns battered and bruised to the Enterprise, the story does not let up. Kirk and Spock are sent immediately undercover to Laycur and have to pit their wits against both enemies and allies, as the latter cannot unlearn the need to suspect everyone.

In the end I read Kay Stagg's stories for Kirk and Spock but there is much here for someone who wants a detective story or an adventure tale. At 197 pages the zine is good value. Oh - did I say that I really enjoyed it?

• **INVOLUTION 9**, published by Orion Press, January 1996, 260 A4 pages, \$25 inc P&P. Reviewed by Anne-Marie Flowers

This zine has 11 stories spread over 212 pages, the rest of the space being taken up with letters of comment, ads and an extensive index of all the stories to be found in previous issues.

There's something for everyone here. For instance, there are three stories which take up where Generations left off. Two find Picard taking Beverly with him to Labarre, but my favourite was Finding Time by Louise Ellis, which is set aboard the Farragut immediately after the crash. Ignoring her own injuries, Beverly has struggled to stay on her feet and tend the wounded. At the end of a very long day she comes to find Picard and they have a chance to talk (and bathe and share a pair of pyjamas!)

The Box by D J Nicholson is a very different kind of story. Picard is trapped in a coffin-like box. He doesn't know how or why he got there, no-one answers his shouts and he can't be sure of rescue. Suffering from hunger, thirst and sensory deprivation, he is prey to terrible mood swings and begins to fear for his sanity. As a pure character study, I suppose this story has merit, but I found it quite unsettling and the ending was particularly unsatisfactory.

Union by Rosemary Cullen is a much longer work. While on leave on the planet Green, Picard gets lost, falls and is injured. This leads him to discover that the planet is actually a sentient life form. Shortly after this event the Borg once again threaten Federation space and the Enterprise is ordered back to Earth. Here Picard is reunited with Nella Darren and they resume their relationship. Together they work on a strategy to defeat the Borg, which requires co-operation from Green and other sentient planetary bodies. This story is interesting with many original elements, but ultimately it is rather sad, and I felt quite sorry for Nella (which is amazing, because I couldn't stand her in Lessons).

Robin Lyster's The Beginning of a Beautiful Friendship was billed as "bittersweet", and I would certainly agree with that. It tells of the first meeting between Picard and his best friend's wife. However, neither one knows who the other is, and by the time they find out, it's too late for the Captain. This really was my kind of story and definitely my favourite this time around.

I suppose you could say that A Time to Mourn is also my kind of story, because I wrote it. It's my version of Picard's reaction to Ro's defection in Pre-emptive Strike. I think you can tell from the title that he's a bit upset!

Marooned by Marilee Rafferty is another serious story which sees Picard crash-landing on a desolate planet where his only companions are an ex-Starfleet Lieutenant with a grudge against him, and her large dog. I really did enjoy this one and it's a good illustration of how interaction with a new

character can help to reveal hidden aspects of our old friends.

There is also a lot of artwork in this zine, some excellent, some good, some not so good. I wouldn't say this is the best Involution but, nevertheless, it's a great read and the index is very handy if you want to find out more about back issues (all of which are still in print). I have one spare copy (brand new) of Involution 9 which I am willing to sell. The first offer of £15, inc P&P, secures. Call 0010041 636 0322.

• **NEW ENTERPRISE 3**, published December 1955, 80 A5 pages, £4.00 inc P&P
Reviewed by Anne-Marie Flowers

I have to say that my first reaction to this zine was "reader rage", a condition brought on by the non-appearance of the promised sequel to my favourite story - Lesley Turner's The Big Goodbye - which featured in NE2. However, after reading the editor's explanation for this omission, I calmed down and grudgingly decided to give the contents a chance.

I skipped the first story, but you might enjoy it. After watching Attached, I couldn't believe that Beverly left Jean-Luc to blow out the candles, so I wrote Dreams to exorcise my wrath. It explores what the Doctor saw in the Captain's psyche and explains why it frightened her off.


Next up was the concluding part of Isabelle Wood's Fear No Fall, a Picard H/C story. Most of the hurt happened in part 1 and as a result the Captain has developed a severe form of mind-block. It was a trick he learned from Sarek and it probably saved his life, but now he is completely cut off from his friends. Will Beverly ever get back the man she loved?

The Siege of Troi by Barbara Barrett, a trained counsellor, is an article which was originally published in DWB in 1994. It examines Troi's role in the series and severely criticises her professional conduct "(she) has been to counselling what Herod was to mothercare". It also explores her character and puts forward the theory that Deanna was

an abused child. I found this article very interesting and an excellent contrast to the final item, Rara Avis by Gill Marsden.

It is a long story exploring the Troi/Riker relationship from the time of their first meeting to his no-show on Risa. The characterisation is excellent and I was really pleased to see Riker get his comeuppance with a dose of "Cardassian clap". Ultimately we know that the relationship is doomed but I think that anyone who enjoyed Peter David's Imzadi will also appreciate Gill's version of events and I hope Ms Marsden will treat us to a sequel some day.

This issue may be a slight disappointment to Picard fans, but if you happen to like Troi, I think it would be worth buying for Gill's story alone.

WARNING - I think this issue should be rated PG or perhaps even 15. 



See zine ads for ordering details.

• **IDIC LOG 19** - After the events of ST:TMP, Kirk has to deal with devastating consequences on Delta; Spock considers his future after Khitomer; a dangerous life form invades the Enterprise; and featuring Ribbon of Flame by Jacqueline Y Comben - what would have happened if Spock had intervened in the events of Generations?

UNCHAINED MEMORIES by Nicole Comtet. In the final part of a trilogy, T'Pring's hatred of Spock continues, her illogical desire for revenge on him finding a target in his friend T'Kahalin. (Part 1, Return to the Source, is sold out; there are only four or five copies left of part 2, Blow Back.)





ZINE ADS

Send Zine Ads to Sheila. We reserve the right to edit for length. Adverts will be printed in one newsletter only and added to a zine flyer which is available on request. Send updates with details of new zines for future newsletters.

"Age statement required" means the zine will be sold only to readers who are legally adults.

Zines referred to as K/S or "/" indicate zines with a homosexual element.

Zine Flyer - for a more detailed list of available zines send an SAE plus an extra 25p stamp to Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

IDIC/Scotpress

All zines A5, UK Price includes postage. Rest of Europe add £0.50 per zine.

UNCHAINED MEMORIES by Nicole Comtet - the last part of the Spock/T'Pol/Kahlin trilogy begun in Return to the Source and Blow Black. £2.85

IDIC LOG 19 - short stories, featuring a rewrite of Generations by Jacqueline Comben. £2.75

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 94 - Kirk learns the consequences of breaking the Prime Directive; Kirk and Spock become friends; Joanna McCoy arrives on board... married to Spock; Uhura arranges a party; others. £2.50

MAKE IT SO 26 - TNG genzine featuring Let Us Prey by Christine Carr. There is a serious problem on Exa III. £2.50.

Many other zines available. Send SAE for full list with description. Titles are - Enterprise-Log Entries 82, 86 - 89 (A4), 92, 93 & 94 (A5); IDIC Log 4 - 15 (A4), 17 & 18 (A5); Make It So 6, 8 - 13 (A4), 25 (A5); Capriccio Italien by Sue Jones; Lovely - a Little Problem by Brenda Kelsey; Orcadia by Joyce Devlin and a few other titles where there are fewer than 10 copies left.

Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill

Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted but please add 5p per £1 (or part of £1) to your total order.

We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Send submissions of TNG, DS9 & VOYAGER material to Sheila Clark, (address above) and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

Merrymen Press

New - **FIRST TIME 43, WITHIN THE MIRROR 10, PLAYFELLOWS 9** (Lots of S&H), **BESIDE MYSELF 4**. These are all slash zines. Robin Hood, 274 Roanoke Rd, El Cajon, CA 92020.

Lindsay J Shelton

THE HEALING TIME - This zine is the Riker/Picard sequel to Stolen Lives. Just as Riker is coming to terms with the traumatic events of the last few months, he is summoned to appear at his tormentor's trial. Meanwhile, his relationship with Picard takes an unexpected turn (WARNING - this zine contains explicit same-sex material and will not knowingly be sold to anyone under 18. An age statement MUST accompany all orders.) A4 format. UK price £5.00 inc. P&P. Please order from 94 Parkes Street, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands B67 6BH

Gloria Fry

KINGS OF PROPHECY - A Star Trek fantasy adventure: Volume 2 (Sequel to 'Book Of Prophecy') in which Kirk and his comrades continue their quests and attempt to fulfil the prophecy if they are to save the land of Arigol and its inhabitants from the King of Evil. A4 format. 106 pages. UK£5. Europe: £6 or £5+3lrc's (incl p&p). **BOOK OF PROPHECY** - A Star Trek fantasy adventure: Volume 1 A4 format. 98 pages.

UK: £5. Europe: £6 or £5+3 lrcs (incl p&p). Short run of T-shirts available M, L, XL. (Kirk or Spock) UK: £11 each. Europe: £12 or £10+5 lrcs (incl p&p). Also available cards - Kirk or Spock 60p each. For up to five cards add 30p for p&p. For up to ten cards add 50p for p&p. **SHADOWS OF THE MIRROR** The Mirror-Kirk, after a purge against all who oppose him, takes vengeance on his and Spock's counterparts. A4 format. 124 pages. UK: £6. Europe: £7 or £5+5 lrcs (incl p&p). Available from: Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, GLASGOW, G41 3XG. I have authorised Bill Hupe to sell my zines in America.

BJO TRIMBLE'S SCI-FI SPOTLIGHT

A bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. It is full of news and well worth having. Sample copy \$3 USA, \$4 elsewhere. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$15. Make cheques/money orders payable to: 8000-Trekker. Bjo Trimble's Sci-Fi Spotlight, c/o 800-Trekker, P.O. Box, 13131, Reading PA 19612-3131 USA. Foreign subscriptions: Contact the

Subscription Agent nearest to you for local rates before writing to the U.S. address.


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Australia: Shayne McCormack 49 Orchard Road, Bass Hill, NSW 2197, Australia.

Orient: Masako Noguchi, 1-9-1 1006 Chikko Minato-ku, Osaka 552, Japan.

Bjo needs regular writers for every subject covered in Sci-Fi Spotlight. She does not need a whole page on every subject - 1 page is the maximum, half a column is more usual - but *does* need the column written by someone who knows the subject. For example, Sci-Fi Spotlight currently has very little on horror. (If the article is too long, Bjo can/will edit to length.) Send Bjo a self-addressed envelope and 2 IRCs for an info sheet on what she needs. 

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

Conventions



FAN CONVENTION DIARY - a fan production funded by voluntary contribution. It is completely independent of any fan group or organisation, and exists to provide details of conventions and similar events throughout the year. The diary lists both Star Trek and other media conventions. Send an SAE for a copy to Anne Page, 30 Fellowes Way, Broadway, Stevenage, Herts SG2 8BW.

NEXUS 96 14th-16th June 1996 Star Trek & Science Fiction Convention, The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Bristol. Organised by BSFR and the British Astronomical Society. Guests: Ethan Phillips (Neelix - Voyager), Dave Prowse (Darth Vader - Star Wars), Richard Arnold, Tim Gaskill, Steve Parkinson (Bristol

Exploratory). Programme includes videos, science programme, model exhibition, dealers' rooms, evening disco, Fancy Dress competition plus lots more. Registration £35 Full weekend - other rates available. For SAE for full details including room rates to Nexus 96, 26 Milner Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9PQ.

MERIDIAN 21 - 23 June 1996 in the Rieckhof in Hamburg, Germany. Confirmed guests Marc Alaimo, Bjo Trimble, Dean Jones (make-up artist). Send SAE or SASE to Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker Weg 5, 21365 Adendorf, Germany.

VISICON 22nd-23rd June 1996. Dublin City University. Guest of Honour is Nana Visitor (Major Kira Nerys, DS9) Special Guest is Robert Picardo (Doc Zimmerman, ST Voyager). The guest list grows: We are delighted to have Diane Duane (author of Spock's World and Dark Mirror), Peter

Morwood (author of Rules of Engagement and the Demon Lord series) and Michael Carroll (author of the Pelicos Trilogy) The convention charity is the Coombe Maternity Hospital. Registration ranges from 35 Irish pounds (early registration) to 40 pounds on the day. For full info and registration form, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: VISICON, PO BOX 1996, Dublin 14.

E-Mail Info: wise@iol.ie

CONTAGION, The Sixth Annual Scottish Star Trek Convention. Your only choice for the best guests and most fun in 1996. 13 - 15 July 1996 at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel (formerly Hospitality Inn). Registration £36. Under 5s FREE. Accommodation available at Glasgow Thistle, Charing X Tower Hotel and Baird Hall to suit all budgets. Confirmed guests: John de Lancie, Richard Arnold and character actor Jerry Hardin. Jerry has appeared in 3 episodes of The Next Generation (When The Bough Breaks & Times Arrow Parts 1 & 2) and more recently an episode of Star Trek: Voyager (Emanations). However, it is perhaps as the character of Deep Throat on The X-Files that most SF fans will instantly know Jerry. Others to be announced. All proceeds to charity. For full details contact Contagion, PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 4HR, FaxBack: 0141-429 8223, email: contagion@awayteam.demon.co.uk, www: <http://www.cityscape.co.uk/users/fn45/startrek.html>

D.E.S O'CONN - A 12 - 15 July, 1996 Holiday Inn Leicester. Star Trek/SF Convention. British & American guest talks. Latest episodes, Fancy Dress, Debates, fun & games. Full Reg £25.00. 2 & 1 day rates available. For full details and registration form send a SASE to D.E.S. O'CONN-A, Tina Lukacs & Simon Hage, 270 St Annes Road. South Shore. Blackpool, Lancs. FY4 2QR.

CONCORDE 42nd British Star Trek Convention. 23rd-26th August 1996, Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London. It is a charity event. Registration for full weekend from 1/1/96 £33 rising to £35 on 1/5/96. Confirmed guests (subject to work commitments): William Campbell (Trelane, Koloth), Patricia Tallman - TNG,

DS9, Voyager; stunt co-ordinator on Generations: telepath Lyta Alexander in B5. Also Eric Stillwell; Ray Harryhausen, pioneer of stop-motion SFX; John Carrigan - actor/stuntman; Matt Irvine BBC SFX man; Lee Sullivan - TekWars comic artist; Doug Millard from The Science Museum; Steve Wilson - mythologist. Also video rooms, parties, dealers' and full science and alternative sci-fi programmes. For full details send SAE to: 138 Crosslands, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes MK14 6DF.

LIGHTSPEED '96. 13-15th September, 1996. The Leeds Hilton National, Leeds. Star Trek 30 year celebration. USA Guest Barbara March (Lursa). Other Guests Dr Jack Cohen, Debbie Griffin (US Agent). Rates £35 for full registration. Reduced rates for Children/One day registrations. A packed programme of events including Guest talks, Competitions, Videos, Dealers, Disco and lots more. SAE for information and registration form to: Lightspeed '96, 16 Bramwell St., Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

CONSTITUTION III 27th to 29th September, 1996. Manor Hotel, Hever Court Road, Gravesend Kent. Guests (subject to commitments): Ian Inglis and Dr Sandy Wolfson, lecturers at the University of Northumbria, who recently presented a report to the British Psychological Society on Star Trek fans which challenges the media's portrayal of 'Trekkies'. Registration: Full £20, 5-16/disabled £10, under 5's free. Room rate £29.50 pppn for twin/double room. SAE for info to Tina Hewett, 115 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YH.

MIDCON 15. Europe's longest running Star Trek Convention. October 4th-6th, 1996. Holiday Inn, Leicester. Confirmed guest, Chase Mastersen (Leeta, DS9). For details send SAE to: Midcon 15, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

ASSIMILATION - The Double Main Event at the Britannia Hotel, Daventry. 11th - 14th October 1996. Guests so far: Andrew Robinson (Garek - DS9), Jason Carter (Marcus Cole - Babylon 5), with more guests to be added. Full Reg £35, other rates available. SAE to Allanah Scott, 101

Shaftesbury Ave., South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0PP.

NORCON 16-17 November 1996. Everglade Hotel, Derry City, Co. London. N. Ireland. Theme: 30 years of Star Trek Fandom. SAE for info to Norcon, 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon Town Co. Clare, Ireland.

TEROK NOR (44th British Star Trek Convention. 22nd - 25th August 1997, The Radisson Edwardian, London. SAE for info to Terok Nor, 43 Eastern Avenue, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HG.

OTHER EVENTS

WOLF 359 THE ENCOUNTER 7th to 10th June 1996. The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Guests: Bruce Boxleitner, Rene Auberjonois, J Michael Straczynski, Michael O'Hare. Also appearing Bill Mumy, Stephen Furst, Gareth Thomas, Ron Thornton & George Marshall. Full registration £40. SSAE for details to Wolf 359, 141 Waarden Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9BE.

CULT TV 1996 25th - 28th October 1996. Venue: Haven Action Centre, Caister, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Registration: £34 before 30/4/1996, £39 between 1/5/96 and 31/8/96, £44 between 1/9/96 and 21/10/96. Cult TV covers many TV programmes including: Star Trek, Babylon 5, The X-Files, VR5, Sliders, The Avengers, Dr Who, Red Dwarf, Blake's Seven, Q Leap, and The Prisoner. For more information send an email to me at 101330,2476. Please include your postal address. 2. Send your name and address to Cult TV 1996 (CIS), PO Box 1701, Peterborough PE1 1EX

WHO'S 7 STRIKES BACK (WHO'S 7 1996) 26/27 October 1996 at the Ashford International Hotel, Ashford, Kent. Full registration £40.00 (until 30/4/96) then £45 - supporting £20.00. Guests, videos, games and lots of other things! Contact Who's 7 Strikes Back, 10 Filebrook Hall, Filebrook Road, Leytonstone, London E11 1AG, England. E-Mail: lexin@cix.compulink.co.uk.

FANTASTICON U.K. 24 - 26 May 1997. Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Cult TV/

Radio. Guests galore! - William Campbell, Edward Hardwicke, Barrie Ingham, Jerry Hardin, Gareth Thomas, Simon Williams. Special 20th Anniversary celebration of Star Wars - featuring 'The Men behind the Masks' - Dave Prowse (Darth Vader), Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett), Kenny Baker (R2D2), Warwick Davis (Wicket). Harry Harrison, Ramsey Campbell, Lisa Tuttle, David Gemmell, Dr. Jack Cohen. More TBA. Programme includes: Videos, talks, writers panels, workshops, late night fan programme and cult radio. All being held in the plush surroundings of the Harrogate International Conference Centre, Harrogate, Yorks. Rates £45 full attending (discounts available). Details (include SAE) from Fantasticon UK, 38 Planetree Avenue, Fenham, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 9TH.

VOYAGE 97 the 2nd British Convention devoted to 'Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea'. 25th-27th July 1997, Novotel, Sheffield. Reg: £30 until 31/7/96 then £35. A small friendly convention with a full programme. For further info and registration form send SAE to: Voyage 97, 15 Fullers Court, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DZ.

PERSONAL COLUMN

M/F penfriends wanted - would prefer Chakotay, Vulcan or Voyager fans of approx 30 years old. No Klingons or Cardassians, please! Contact Robert Robinson, 21 Dane Acres, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 2PX

Anyone in the Southport/Preston/Liverpool area willing to befriend/ write to/ meet a lonely Trekker. I'm 36 years old and into all aspects of Trek, especially TNG and Voyager, but can talk intelligently about CT and DS9. Give me a ring, or write to Lindsay Wright, 34 New Lane, Crossens, Southport, Merseyside PR9 8LH, tel. 010704 507955

This is an SOS. I am deeeeeeeep in love on Indonesians or background on Indonesians. I went where my ship hadn't been and I need my daily portion of Indonesia. Is there anyone out there??? Alberto Gorin, de Bruyalaan 5, 6816 PW Arnhem, Holland.

Are there any sci-fi fans/groups in the West

Midlands who are willing to help out a struggling sci-fi group? All help is welcome. For more info, phone me, Raj Badhan, on 0121-515-2539.



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which breaks copyright.

FOR SALE - Next Gen Alternate Universe common, uncommon and rare game cards; send SAE for wants. Also for sale, complete sets of Next Gen Inaugural, Masterseries 1, 30th Anniversary Phase I, Next Gen 2nd season and 3rd season trading cards for £7.50 (inc postage). Send to Mark French, 23 Colgrove, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6HY

FOR SALE - Original Star Trek portraits done on request; CT, TNG, DS9 and all films, any subject considered. All paintings in full colour and done on high quality art paper, and specially mounted. For full details and price list, SAE Derek Gray, 1 Smith Crescent, Aberchirder AB54 5TQ

FOR SALE - 10x8 b+w signed photo of Tony Todd (no make-up) bought at charity auction Newcastle Neutral Zone for £39. Spent too much, will accept £30 including p&p. Harry, 18 East Greenlees Cres., Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8TX.

FOR SALE - K/S zines. SAE for list to Angela Brockett, 18 Hertford Ave, East Sheen, London SW14 8EE

FOR SALE - TNG volume 89 and DS9 volume 1 (both are 2-part versions), £5.00 each. Please contact Drew Stuart, 62

Dunvegan Ave, Elderslie, Renfrewshire PA5 9NL, tel. 011505 325438.

FOR SALE - Some ST and multi-media zines/comics/books. SAE for list. Ingrid Smith, 24 Cliffsea Grove, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1NQ

FOR SALE - Trading card singles of the following sets - TNG inaugural, TNG episode seasons 1, 2, 3 & 4, Voyager series 1 & 2, 25th Anniversary 1 & 2, DS9, Masterpieces, Masterscenes, 30th Anniversary phase 1. Some sets and bonus cards available. Also available, Panini stickers and TNG customizable game cards, limited and unlimited, and the TNG alternative universe cards. for lists, please send SAE to Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts, Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN.

FREE - Due to running out of storage space, 12 Classic Trek zines circa 1990 free to anyone who collects them or pays postage. Jane Fenn, 2 Albisden Court, Blinco Rd, Rushden, Northants NN10 0EA.

FOR SALE - Star Trek zines, Gen & K/S. Send SAE for list to Kathryn Boag, 1 Sidlaw Avenue, Earnock, Hamilton, Lanarkshire ML3 9XD

FOR SALE - Brent Spiner's Ol' Yellow Eyes is Back, CD, Cassette; and a selection of merchandise available from us. For more information, please send SAE to Donna & Dawn Macey, 66 Albert Rd, Worcester, WR5 1EB, tel. 019005 764161. Overseas requests are welcome - please send IRCs for reply.

FOR SALE - Black border edition (limited) of ST:TNG Customizable card game. Would accept reasonable price or would consider swapping for many white edition cards. Dany Peeroo, 26 Kenton Way, Goldsworth Park, Woking, Surrey GU21 3QQ.

FOR SALE - Due to a growing Star Trek collection and lack of storage I have decided to sell some of my beloved memorabilia. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope for a complete list to - G M Rigg, 4 Ryecroft, Strensall, York, YO3 5AG

WANTED - TV Guide July 15, 1995 Voyager;

TV Guide July 22, 1995 - DS9. Vera Regina Schweitzer, Hanauer Strasse 25 VIII, 80992 Munchen 50, Germany.

WANTED - Star Trek - original series official videos of episodes 53/54, 57/58 and 61/62; also Star Trek: the Next Generation volumes 15, 16 & 18. Must be in good condition. Will pay £5.00 per video plus cost of sending. Please contact Drew Stuart, 62 Dunvegan Ave, Elderslie, Renfrewshire PA5 9NL, tel. 011505 325438.

WANTED - Original Playmates Tasha Yar figure. Will pay a reasonable price. Contact Alexander Francis, "Silverdale", Market Road, Nantyglo, Brynmawr, Gwent NP3 4QD.

WANTED - ST:NG Borg Box and Data's Head Box. Also wanted DS9 videos from any season, especially 3. Also many swaps of customizable game pack. Dany Peeroo, 26 Kenton Way, Goldsworth Park, Woking, Surrey GU21 3QQ.

DESPERATELY WANTED - Did anyone tape Sliders episode broadcast on 10/3/96, and Space Above and Beyond broadcast on 21/3/96 on Sky one. Will pay £10 for each episode + costs for video (VHS)/PP; I will collect in Peterborough area. Contact Daniel, 104 Norburn, North Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8NJ, tel. 01733 266956

WANTED - Any zines, articles, etc, on the Gerry Anderson series UFO. Ingrid Smith, 24 Cliffsea Grove, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1NQ

WANTED - Could anyone lend me a copy of the Encounters programme on the Titanic which was shown on Channel 4 on 28/4/96? I missed it :(Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

WANTED - Photos from Generations 2 convention. Please send details to Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts, Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN

WANTED- Playmates action figures. Captain Picard (regular Starfleet uniform), Wesley Crusher, Dr Bashir, Quark & Jake Sisko. I've hit a brick wall trying to find them, so any price considered. Please contact Alan Butler,

5 Saunders Walk, Southway, Plymouth, Devon PL6 6NZ

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the UK, PO Box 355, Bushey, Watford WD2 2NA. £14.99 for 4 magazines. Tel No. 01923-818495. Fax for membership information is: 01923-225885.

People can write to Tim Gaskill direct via e-mail: elmerisdog@mail.bogo.co.uk or TGASKILL@delphi.com

Post: PO BOX 6463, London, N22 4JU
Fax 0181-888-8008.

CTP Sci-fi Accessories, 1 Sandford Gardens, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1QT, te. 01494 445562. Klingon and Romulan headpieces, costume accessories, bat'leths, badges. Send large SAE for list.



CLUBS & GROUPS

UPDATE

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 25p stamp.

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

The Off-World Society of Vulcans. The OWSV is an organisation in which Vulcans residing or stationed on other Federation planets or Starships, or those with associates to whom this applies, may communicate freely with one another in a logical manner not frequently possible when contending with outworlders. Rata Tatar Tapan is the quarterly journal of OWSV. The British Ambassador will assist with any queries. SAE to TYomin, Embassy of Vulcan/T'Khasi, SOL III, British Sector, 22 Purefoy Rd, Cheylesmore, Coventry CV3 5GL. Live long and prosper/Mene sakkat ur-seveh.

Ten Forward: TNG fan club covering TNG, DS9, Voyager and Beyond. 3 A4 newsletters per year. £4.50 UK (£6.00 UK family) Overseas rates on request. Ten Forward, (FC), 18 Beckwith Road, East Harringthorpe, Rotherham, Yorkshire, S65 3PD.

Quark's Bar has closed its doors. I would like to thank all the members for their support over the few years. Live long and profit - Vikki Tittley.

Emissary: The Avery Brooks Fan Club. Emissary, P.O. Box 621719, Oviedo, FL 32762-1719 USA. Email: Emisary1@aol.com

EPIC is the official fan club sanctioned by Ethan Phillips. EPIC, PO Box 481, 8, Waterbury, CT 06704, USA.

The Cardassian Fan Club, P.O. Box 864, Solvay, NY 13209-0864 USA

The Official Red Dwarf Fan Club, 40 Pitford Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4QF. Full membership £9.50.

LOCAL GROUPS - Update

Please enclose an SAE when writing for details.

Airdrie - USS Renegade, PO Box 5425, Airdrie, Lanarkshire ML6 9BW, meets monthly. SAE for details.

Bournemouth - USS Excalibur Star Trek Mini-Conventions at Bournemouth University, Poole House, Wallisdown, Bournemouth. Films, activities, raffles and competitions. Charity - The MacMillan (Cancer) Unit. Entry £2.00 Excalibur members, £2.50 non members. Future date: 22 June.

Edinburgh - Starbase East Coast. Our meeting dates for the next few months are 23/06/96, 28/07/96 and 22/09/96. We will be having a disco at our new location which is Champions Club on Annandale Street, just off Leith Walk in Edinburgh. Our programme as always runs from 10 am until 10 pm, with episodes of Voyager, Deep Space Nine, TNG and Classic as well as X-Files,

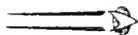
Babylon 5 and other series. Enquiries - SAE to Starbase East Coast, c/o Greg Lamb, 195/2 Great Junction Street, Edinburgh EH6 5LQ.

Glasgow - The Away Team: Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR. Hospitality Inn 10.00am to 10.00pm, £6, (£4 under 14s). Next meeting: 2nd June 1996.

Liverpool - Fek'lhr. Star Trek Science Fiction club meets every 1st Sunday of each month 1 - 6 pm. £1.50. **New Venue:** New Penny Farthing pub/club, 89 St John's Precinct (Roe St), next to Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool. For details, SAE J Panter, 51 Church St, Old Swan, Liverpool L13, Merseyside, L13 2AU

London - The London Group: Bi-monthly Trek group, 10.30am-7.00pm, Britannia Inter-Continental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. Dates: 6th July, 14th September, 2nd November - price £7 per meeting. SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

Northampton - Starbase Delta. Come along to our fortnightly Sunday evening meetings, which are held in a back room of the Masters Arms public house in Badby. Members aged from 13 yrs upwards are catered for, a licensed bar in the main pub is available to the older members, with soft drinks for the kids. We screen videos of all Trek, play role playing games, have quizzes and discussions and arrange trips to conventions and exhibitions. Meeting times 7.30pm 'til around 10.30 pm, price £1. For details phone: Mike (01327) 79290 or Dave (01327) 843048.



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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc or my email; all news, cuttings, info etc. ; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; submissions for the newsletter which have to be typed up - postbag, articles, reviews, adverts etc; TNG & DS9 submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

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